

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

*Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.**Cardenas, January 24, 1902.*

M. le Ministre,

AS I had the honour of informing your Excellency verbally this morning, I have been instructed by His Majesty's Government to state to you, with reference to a conversation which I had on the 21st instant with your Excellency, and which I reported to the Marquess of Lansdowne, that the "Ban Righ" left England in November, and that, the Colombian Minister in London having stated that she was intended for the service of his Government, and no state of war existing between Colombia and any other Power, there was not any reason to detain the vessel.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 2.

*Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.**Cardenas, March 27, 1902.*

M. le Ministre,

IN my note of the 24th instant, I had the honour of informing your Excellency that I had lost no time in reporting to His Majesty's Government the protest of the Venezuelan Government against the presence at Port of Spain, without any objection on the part of the Colonial authorities, of the insurgent steam-boat "Ban Righ" ("Libertador").

I am now instructed by His Majesty's Government to inform that of Venezuela that, as it would seem that that ship is now, ostensibly at least, a Colombian man-of-war, and is flying the Colombian national flag, they cannot properly direct any action against her.

Any such action would be an act of war against Colombia if she be a Colombian public vessel.

I am further to state that His Majesty's Government incurs no liability for, nor for any depredation committed by, the ship in question. The circumstances, moreover, under which she was allowed to leave England are of such a character that the Venezuelan Government cannot properly put forward any charge of negligence.

If, since her transfer at Martinique, she have made any use of the British flag, this has been simply a wrongful act, for which His Majesty's Government are in no way responsible.

On the other hand, His Majesty's Government will not allow the ship to use a British port as a base of hostile operations against Venezuela, and the Governor of Trinidad has therefore been instructed not to allow her to coal, and to request her to leave the port immediately.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

VENEZUELA. No. 1 (1902).

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Affairs of
Venezuela.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of His Majesty. December 1902.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

/ VENEZUELA. No. 1 (1903).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF VENEZUELA.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February 1903.*

Bx 27.33

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.,
AND 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
OR OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
OR E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

[Cd. 1399.] Price 2s.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	Colonial Office		Mar. 16, 1901	Outrage on British subjects by Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto." Transmits despatch from Governor of Trinidad, with statements of witnesses	1
2	To Mr. Grant Duff ..	Telegraphic	21,	Outrage by the "Augusto" on British subjects. Has matter been brought to notice of Venezuelan Government?	7
3	Mr. Grant Duff ..	Telegraphic	22,	Outrage by the "Augusto" on British subjects. Representations made to Venezuelan Government	8
4	To Mr. Grant Duff ..	Telegraphic	23,	Outrage by the "Augusto" on British subjects. What is result of representations? Facts reported by Governor of Trinidad should be communicated to Venezuelan Government	8
5	Mr. Grant Duff ..	Telegraphic	26,	Outrage by the "Augusto." Venezuelan Government calling for reports	8
6	" .. ..	.. ..	22,	Outrage on J. N. Kelly of Trinidad by Venezuelan soldiers. Reports facts. Note to Venezuelan Government	8
7	" .. ..	.. ..	23,	Outrage by "Augusto." Transmits note to Venezuelan Government	9
8	" .. ..	.. ..	29,	Outrage by "Augusto." Transmits note from Venezuelan Government and reply	11
9	To Colonial Office .. ..	.. ..	May 1,	Transmits above	12
10	Mr. Grant Duff .. ..	.. ..	Apr. 17,	Outrage by "Augusto." Transmits declaration by Mrs. Jones, one of persons carried off, and note to Venezuelan Government	13
11	" .. ..	.. ..	17,	Burning of sloop "Maria Teresa," belonging to British subject, by Venezuelan gun-boat. Transmits despatch from Governor of Trinidad, with Petition of owner, and proceedings before Marine Court; also note to Venezuelan Government	14
12	" .. ..	.. ..	17,	Seizure of John Craig's boat, the "Sea Horse," at Patos, by Venezuelan sailors. Despatch from Governor of Trinidad, and notes to Venezuelan Government	21
13	" .. ..	.. ..	19,	Outrage by "Augusto." Refers to No. 10. Matter under investigation	25
14	" .. ..	.. ..	19,	Burning of "Maria Teresa." Refers to No. 11. Note from Venezuelan Government	25
15	" .. ..	.. ..	19,	Seizure of John Craig's boat "Sea Horse" at Patos. Refers to No. 12. Note from Venezuelan Government. Matter under investigation	26
16	Mr. Haggard .. ..	.. ..	June 13,	Seizure of John Craig's boat "Sea Horse" at Patos. Note from Venezuelan Government stating that boat was seized when smuggling, and reply	27

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
17	Mr. Haggard	.. ..	June 22, 1901	Seizure of John Craig's boat "Sea Horse." Communication with Foreign Minister	29
18	" "	.. ..	July 24,	Burning of "Maria Teresa." Refers to No. 14. Transmits note from Venezuelan Government, stating that she was engaged in revolution	30
19	To Mr. Haggard	.. ..	Aug. 20,	Burning of "Maria Teresa." Further evidence to be obtained	33
20	Mr. Haggard	.. ..	Sept. 10,	Seizure of John Craig's boat "Sea Horse." Further note from Venezuelan Government alleging that boat was not only smuggler, but taking part in revolution	34
21	" "	.. ..	14,	Burning of "Maria Teresa." Answers No. 19. Transmits note to Venezuelan Government. :	36
22	" "	.. ..	Oct. 9,	Burning of "Maria Teresa." Transmits reply from Venezuelan Government. No reason for fresh inquiry	37
23	" "	.. ..	15,	Alleged assistance to revolutionists in Trinidad. Venezuelan Government disclaim any imputation against Colonial authorities	38
24	Colonial Office	.. ..	Nov. 6,	Seizure of sloop "Pastor" by Venezuelan gunboat "Totumo" off Patos. Transmits despatch from Governor of Trinidad	39
25	Customs ..	.. ..	8,	Fitting out of "Ban Righ." Information as to. What action is to be taken?	42
26	" ..	.. ..	14,	"Ban Righ." Further information from owner and letter from Colombian Consul-General, stating she is for Government of Colombia ..	44
27	To Mr. Haggard	.. Telegraphic	15,	Does state of war exist between Venezuela and Colombia?	45
28	To Señor Ponce	.. ..	15,	"Ban Righ." Has vessel been purchased for Colombian Government, ...	45
29	Señor Ponce	.. ..	15,	"Ban Righ" intended for Colombian Government. Asks that orders may be given for her dispatch	45
30	Mr. Haggard	.. Telegraphic	21,	Answers No. 27. State of war does not exist between Venezuela and Colombia	46
31	To Customs	.. ..	21,	"Ban Righ" may be released. Answers No. 26	46
32	Mr. Haggard	.. ..	Oct. 27,	Seizure of sloop "Pastor." She was fired on in British waters while on smuggling expedition	46
33	Customs ..	.. ..	Nov. 21,	"Ban Righ." Transmits communication from Colombian Consul-General, urging that she may be released	46
34	" ..	.. ..	22,	"Ban Righ" released in accordance with No. 31	47
35	Colonial Office	.. ..	23,	Export of arms from Trinidad to Venezuela. Despatch from Governor of Trinidad, reporting facts	47
36	Consul-General Sir G. Perry	.. ..	28,	"Ban Righ" arrived at Antwerp. Master made no report regarding cargo. Alleged to have rifles on board. Sailing for West Indies on 29th	48

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
37	To Colonial Office ..	..	Nov. 30, 1901	Attitude of Venezuelan Government with regard to Patos. Should further remonstrance be made on account of "Pastor" case (see No. 32) ..	49
38	Colonial Office ..	..	Dec. 12,	Answers above. Agrees that further remonstrance should be made ..	49
39	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	16,	"Pastor" incident at Patos Island. Further protest to be made ..	50
40	Mr. Haggard ..	..	Nov. 26,	Export of arms from Trinidad. Transmits correspondence with Venezuelan Government. Question of reciprocity ..	50
41	" ..	Telegraphic	Dec. 31,	"Ban Righ." Venezuelan Government offer reward for capture. They declare Municipal Law over-rules International Law ..	52
42	" ..	..	5,	Export of arms from Trinidad. Note to Venezuelan Government, embodying views of Governor of Trinidad (see No. 40) ..	52
43	Colonial Office ..	..	Jan. 9, 1902	Burning of "Maria Teresa." Report from Governor of Trinidad as to cargo (see No. 21) ..	53
44	To Consul Japp ..	Telegraphic	10,	"Ban Righ," now "Libertador." To cable information as to her being fitted out as man-of-war at Martinique, and as to flag flown ..	54
45	Mr. Haggard ..	..	Nov. 20, 1901	"Ban Righ." Refers to No. 30. No state of war between Venezuela and Colombia. Transmits correspondence with Venezuelan Government ..	55
46	" ..	..	Dec. 25,	"Pastor" incident at Patos Island. Transmits note to Venezuelan Government, embodying No. 39, and their reply..	55
47	To Colonial Office ..	..	Jan. 21, 1902	Burning of "Maria Teresa." Acknowledges No. 43 ..	57
48	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	23,	"Ban Righ" left in November. Venezuelan Government to be informed that there was no reason to detain her, as she was for Colombian Government ..	57
49	Colonial Office ..	..	25,	Seizure of British sloop "Indiana" by Venezuelan authorities in Barima River. Despatches from Governor of British Guiana ..	57
50	To Mr. Haggard ..	..	31,	Seizure of "Indiana." To make representations to Venezuelan Government..	62
51	Mr. Haggard ..	..	Dec. 31, 1901	"Ban Righ." Transmits Decree proclaiming her to be a pirate ..	62
52	Colonial Office ..	..	Feb. 7, 1902	Seizure of "Indiana." Despatch from Governor of British Guiana (continuation of No. 49), inclosing evidence ..	63
53	Acting Consul Hudson	Telegraphic	7,	"Ban Righ" has left Colou for Cartagena. Sale to Colombia completed 1st January ..	66
54	To Acting Consul Hudson	Telegraphic	8,	Was "Ban Righ" transferred to Colombian Government or to a Colombian citizen? Inquires as to sale to General Matos ..	66
55	Acting Consul Hudson	Telegraphic	11,	"Ban Righ" purchased for Colombian Government, and transferred by their orders to General Matos ..	67

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

V

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
56	Mr. Haggard		Jan. 24, 1902	"Ban Righ." Answers No. 48. Venezuelan Government consider England responsible, as she sailed from English port under English flag. Transmits note, informing them of reason for releasing her	67
57	"		25,	"Ban Righ." Protest of Venezuelan Government	68
58	Board of Trade		Feb. 14,	"Ban Righ's" registry closed 7th February ..	71
59	Acting Consul Hudson		3,	"Ban Righ." Transmits despatch from Acting Vice-Consul at Barranquilla as to her flying British flag	71
60	Colonial Office		20,	Seizure of "Indiana." Continues No. 52. Further despatch from Governor of British Guiana	72
61	Acting Consul Hudson		10,	"Ban Righ." Information received from Mr. de Paula, late owner. Hoisting of British flag at Savanilla	74
62	Mr. Haggard		23,	"Ban Righ" lately in harbour at Curaçao ..	75
63	Colonial Office		Mar. 1	"Ban Righ's" visit to St. Lucia flying British flag	75
64	"		25,	"Ban Righ." Telegram from Trinidad, reporting she has entered Port of Spain. Asks instructions	75
65	Admiralty		26,	"Ban Righ." Arrival at Trinidad with Colombian man-of-war's flag	76
66	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	26,	"Ban Righ." His Majesty's Government cannot take any action against her, as she is a Colombian man-of-war. She will not be allowed to make British port basis for hostilities against Venezuela, and Governor of Trinidad will refuse her permission to coal, and request her to leave at once ..	76
67	Mr. Haggard		3,	"Ban Righ." Transmits note from Venezuelan Government, arguing that responsibility rests with England, and that she has committed acts of hostility against the Republic. Until this question is settled they cannot consider other matters concerning the two Governments	76
68	"		7,	Seizure of "Indiana." Answers No. 50. Representations made to Venezuelan Government. Transmits further report from Consul at Ciudad Bolivar	78
69	Admiralty		29,	"Ban Righ." Telegram from Bermuda reports her disabled for two months	79
70	To Mr. Welby ..	Telegraphic	Apr. 2,	"Ban Righ." To inform Minister for Foreign Affairs she cannot be allowed to refit in a British port without assurance that she is a Colombian public vessel, and will not be permitted to engage in irregular hostilities against Venezuela	79
71	Señor Ponce		3,	Arms destined for Colombia now in Trinidad. May they be dispatched?	79
72	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	5,	"Ban Righ." Informs of Nos. 70 and 71 ..	80
73	Colonial Office		8,	"Ban Righ." Refers to No. 71; telegram to Governor. Assurances from Colombia must be awaited before arms can be forwarded to Colombia	80

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
74	Mr. Haggard	.. ..	Mar. 14, 1902	"Ban Righ." Venezuelan Government repeat that no other matters can be considered until this question is settled	80
75	Colonial Office	.. ..	April 11,	"Ban Righ." Telegram from Governor of Trinidad as to facilities to be given and despatch as to shadowing by Venezuelan gun-boats	81
76	To Señor Ponce	.. ..	11,	"Ban Righ." Request in No. 71 as to forwarding of arms cannot be complied with until proper assurances are received from Colombian Government ..	85
77	Señor Ponce	.. ..	14,	"Ban Righ." Will forward above to his Government	86
78	To Colonial Office	.. ..	15,	"Ban Righ." might be removed in tow by a Colombian man-of-war, which might also take on board her cargo of arms. Suggests telegram to Governor of Trinidad ..	86
79	Colonial Office	.. ..	17,	"Ban Righ." Transmits telegram to Governor of Trinidad in above sense	86
80	Mr. Haggard	.. ..	Mar. 26,	"Ban Righ." Note from Venezuelan Government, protesting against her reception in harbour of Port of Spain, and his reply	86
81	" "	.. ..	30,	Armed expeditions said to have been dispatched from Trinidad to Venezuela. Venezuelan Government told that Governor of Trinidad reports there is no foundation for statement ..	87
82	" "	.. ..	Apr. 1,	"Ban Righ." Refers to No. 66. Transmits correspondence with Venezuelan Government as to her being a Colombian man-of-war ..	88
83	Colonial Office	.. ..	May 13,	Irregular conduct of Señor Figueredo, Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad. Transmits despatch from Governor, inclosing correspondence. Should exequatur be refused? ..	89
84	Memorandum	.. ..	19,	"Ban Righ." case	99
85	Colonial Office	.. ..	29,	Conduct of Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad. Transmits despatches and telegram from Governor. Mr. Haggard might present a protest against his action in hampering trade, improperly demanding payment of customs duties, and arrogating diplomatic functions	100
86	Mr. Haggard	.. ..	16,	Conversation with new Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs as to "Ban Righ," and question of expelling General Matos from Trinidad	103
87	To Mr. Haggard	.. ..	June 9,	"Ban Righ." His Majesty's Government cannot acquiesce in attempt of Venezuela to postpone dealing with other questions ..	104
88	Colonial Office	.. ..	11,	Destruction of British vessel "In Time" by Venezuelan gun-boat. Report from Governor of Trinidad. He thinks Port of Spain should be closed against Venezuelan vessels, and that Venezuelan gun-boat should be seized	104
89	Mr. Dickson	.. Telegraphic	May 7,	"Ban Righ." Answers No. 70. Assurances that she is a Colombian ship-of-war, and will not be allowed to take part in hostilities against Venezuela	106

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

vii

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
90	Mr. Haggard ..	..	May 31, 1902	Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad (see No. 85). Transmits note to Government detailing complaints	107
91	To Colonial Office ..	..	June 24,	"Ban Righ." Transmits No. 89. Vessel may now be allowed to refit and proceed to Colombian waters	109
92	Colonial Office ..	..	25,	Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad. Refers to No. 85. Transmits further complaints. What action has been taken?	110
93	Mr. Dickson ..	..	May 14,	"Ban Righ." Transmits note, of which substance was given in No. 89	112
94	To Colonial Office ..	..	July 1,	Destruction of "In Time." Answers No. 88. Would not seize gun-boat, but Venezuelan Government might be warned that unless report is disproved Venezuelan cruisers will be refused hospitality in British ports	113
95	Mr. Haggard ..	..	June 14,	Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad. Refers to No. 90. Transmits further note to Government	114
96	" ..	..	14,	Seizure of "Indiana." Refers to No. 68. Transmits further note to Venezuelan Government	114
97	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	July 3,	"Ban Righ." In view of assurances of Colombian Government, she is to be allowed to refit at Port of Spain, and depart for Colombian waters	116
98	To Colonial Office ..	..	4,	Conduct of Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad. Transmits No. 90	116
99	Colonial Office ..	..	4,	Seizure of "Indiana." Transmits despatch from Governor of British Guiana with evidence	116
100	" ..	..	8,	Destruction of "In Time." Answers No. 94. Instructions might be sent to Mr. Haggard accordingly. Governor of Trinidad will be informed	122
101	" ..	..	9,	Conduct of Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad. Concurs in proposed telegram to Mr. Haggard	122
102	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	10,	Conduct of Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad. To protest against his action, and say that no exequatur will be issued unless satisfactory assurances are given as to his future conduct	123
103	" ..	Telegraphic	11,	Destruction of "In Time." See No. 106. To warn Government that if reports are not disproved hospitality of British ports may be refused to Venezuelan cruisers	123
104	To Colonial Office ..	..	14,	Seizure of "Indiana." Transmits No. 96. No further action can usefully be taken at present	123
105	Mr. Haggard ..	..	June 24,	Destruction of "In Time." Transmits note to Venezuelan Government	123
106	" ..	..	30,	Seizure by Venezuelan man-of-war of British vessel "Queen." Transmits declaration by master and note to Venezuelan Government	124

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
107	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	July 20, 1902	"Ban Righ." Refers to No. 97. Venezuelan Government continue to regard her as pirate, and do not withdraw claim on His Majesty's Government	126
108	Memorandum ..	..	20,	Causes of complaint against Venezuela ..	126
109	To Mr. Buchanan ..	..	23,	Causes of complaint against Venezuela. Conversation with German Ambassador. His Majesty's Government ready to consider joint action	129
110	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	29,	Causes of complaint against Venezuela. To address warning to Venezuelan Government that unless assurances are given that such shall not recur and unless compensation is paid His Majesty's Government will take steps to obtain reparation	129
111	Mr. Haggard ..	..	12,	Destruction of "In Time" (see No. 103). Venezuelan Government warned that unless reports are disproved, hospitality of British ports will be refused to Venezuelan cruisers ..	129
112	" ..	..	13,	"Ban Righ." Refers to No. 97. Transmits note to Venezuelan Government as to reasons for allowing her to refit and leave for Colombia	131
113	" ..	..	13,	"Ban Righ." Answers No. 87. Note to Venezuelan Government that His Majesty's Government cannot acquiesce in postponement of other pending questions	131
114	" ..	Telegraphic	Aug. 5,	Warning to Venezuelan Government given on receipt of No. 110. They refuse to consider other questions pending settlement of "Ban Righ"	132
115	To Admiralty ..	..	8,	Causes of complaint against Venezuela. Transmits Nos. 108, 110, and 114. Asks views as to measures of coercion	132
116	Colonial Office ..	..	11,	Seizure of British sloop "Queen" by Venezuelan gun-boat. Transmits despatch from Acting Governor of Trinidad, inclosing evidence	133
117	Mr. Haggard ..	..	July 17,	Destruction of "In Time." Note from Venezuelan Government, protesting against menacing tone of No. 111	135
118	" ..	..	19,	"Ban Righ." Refers to No. 112. Transmits note from Venezuelan Government, who cannot withdraw claim against His Majesty's Government	135
119	" ..	..	27,	"Ban Righ." No reply received to Inclosure in No. 113	136
120	Admiralty ..	..	Aug. 14,	Proposed coercion of Venezuela. Suggests a blockade	136
121	Colonial Office ..	..	19,	Seizure of "Queen." Transmits despatch from Trinidad, inclosing evidence	137
122	Mr. Haggard ..	..	1,	Warning to Venezuelan Government. Transmits note in terms of No. 110. Interview with Foreign Minister	137
123	" ..	..	4,	Warning to Venezuelan Government. Transmits reply of Foreign Minister. Repetition of statement that, pending settlement of "Ban Righ" case, nothing else can be dealt with	139

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
124	Mr. Haggard ..		Aug. 23, 1902	Destruction of the "In Time." Refers to No. 117. Further evidence received ..	140
125	Admiralty .	..	Oct. 10,	Naval demonstration off Venezuelan coast. Proposals of Commander-in-chief on North America and West Indies Station .	140
126	Colonial Office		14,	"Ban Righ" left Trinidad for Cartagena on 19th September	141
127	Memorandum communicated to German Ambassador	..	22,	Position of affairs between His Majesty's Government and Government of Venezuela. Proposed communication to Venezuela as to joint action	141
128	To Admiralty ..	..	22,	Naval demonstration. Answers No. 125. Seizure of gun-boats preferable to blockade	143
129	Mr. Haggard ..	..	2,	Imprisonment of British subject, M. Gransaul. Note to Venezuelan Government. .	143
130	" "	..	2,	Outrage on British subject, John Jones. Note to Venezuelan Government	144
131	To Mr. Haggard	Telegraphic	25,	Case of John Jones. To make fresh representations	145
132	" "	Telegraphic	25,	Case of M. Gransaul. To make fresh representations	145
133	Admiralty ..	..	28,	Naval demonstration. No difficulty as to seizure of gun-boats as proposed in No. 128	145
134	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	Nov. 11,	Position of affairs between His Majesty's Government and Government of Venezuela. To explain to United States' Government .	145
135	To Mr. Haggard	Telegraphic	11,	Further warning to be given to Venezuelan Government	146
136	To Mr. Buchanan ..	..	11,	Further warning to Venezuela, and proposed measures of coercion. Conversation with German Ambassador	146
137	Count Metternich ..	..	13,	Memorandum on German claims	147
138	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	13,	Coercion of Venezuela. Answers No. 134. Reply of United States' Government ..	147
139	Colonial Office ..	..	15,	Seizure of British sloop "Racer" by Venezuelan authorities. Despatch from Acting Governor of Trinidad	147
140	To Mr. Buchanan ..	..	17,	Procedure against Venezuela. Method of settling claims. Conversation with German Ambassador	149
141	" "	..	17,	External debt of Venezuela. Steps to be taken on behalf of bondholders	149
142	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	17,	Warning given to Venezuelan Government in accordance with No 135. Reply of Venezuelan Government recurring to case of "Ban Righ"	150
143	" "	..	Oct. 28,	Case of John Jones. Transmits note to Venezuelan Government in accordance with No. 131	150
144	" "	..	28,	Case of M. Gransaul. Note to Venezuelan Government in accordance with No. 132 ..	151
145	" "	..	28,	Impressment of British subject, J. A. Sampty, into Venezuelan army	152

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
146	Mr. Haggard		Oct. 29, 1902	Seizure of "Racer." Refers to No. 139. Note to Venezuelan Government ..	152
147	To Mr. Haggard	..	Nov. 21,	"Ban Righ." No ground on which His Majesty's Government could refuse to allow ammunition to be withdrawn from bonded store	154
148	To Sir M. Herbert	.. Telegraphic	25,	British interests at Carácas. If His Majesty's Minister is withdrawn, will United States' Minister be permitted to take charge? ..	154
149	To Mr. Haggard	.. ..	25,	Seizure of "Racer." Approves No. 146 ..	154
150	" "	.. ..	25,	Impressment of J. A. Sampty. Approves No. 145	154
151	Admiralty ..	.. ..	25,	Seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats. Instructions sent to Admiral	155
152	Sir M. Herbert	.. Telegraphic	26,	British interests at Carácas. Answers No. 148. United States' Minister will be permitted to take charge if necessary ..	155
153	To Mr. Buchanan	.. ..	26,	Action against Venezuela. Conversation with German Ambassador as to views of German Government	155
154	" "	.. ..	26,	Action against Venezuela. Conversation with German Ambassador as to ultimatum, settlement of claims, and measures of coercion. Transmits Memorandum of steps to be taken	156
155	Admiralty ..	.. ..	27,	Movements of His Majesty's ships. Proposals of Admiral	157
156	To Sir M. Herbert	.. Telegraphic	27,	British interests at Carácas. Thanks for No. 152. Could United States' Minister receive authority in advance? ..	158
157	To Mr. Haggard	.. Telegraphic	27,	Instructions as to action	158
158	Memorandum communicated by M. Cambon	..	28,	French claims on Venezuela ..	158
159	To Admiralty	..	28,	Operations against Venezuela. Instructions for Admiral. He should confer with German Senior Naval Officer	159
160	To Mr. Buchanan	.. ..	Dec. 1,	Action against Venezuela. German Ambassador informed of course to be followed ..	160
161	To Mr. Haggard	.. Telegraphic	2,	Ultimatum to be delivered to Venezuelan Government. Course to be followed subsequently	160
162	Sir R. Rodd	.. Telegraphic	3,	Action against Venezuela. Desire of Italian Government to participate	161
163	Mr. Haggard	.. ..	Nov. 15,	Case of J. N. Kelly (see No. 6). Memorandum of action taken	161
164	" "	.. ..	17,	Warning to Venezuelan Government. Transmits note and reply of Foreign Minister (see No. 142)	162
165	To M. Cambon	.. ..	Dec 5,	French claims. Acknowledges No. 158. French interests will not be prejudiced ..	164
166	To Sir R. Rodd	.. ..	5,	Action against Venezuela. Conversation with Italian Ambassador as to participation of his Government	165

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
167	To Admiralty		Dec. 6, 1902	Italian ship "Bausan" being sent to La Guayra	165
168	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	7,	Ultimatums delivered	166
169	" ..	Telegraphic	8,	Has left Carácas	166
170	Admiralty ..	..	9,	Seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats. Telegram from Commodore	166
171	To Mr. Buchanan	..	9,	Participation of Italy in measures against Venezuela. Conversation with German Ambassador	166
172	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	9,	Seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats. Arrangements with Senior Naval Officer	167
173	" ..	Telegraphic	10,	Seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats	167
174	" ..	Telegraphic	10,	Arrest of British and German subjects at Carácas	167
175	Admiralty ..	..	11,	Proposed blockade of Venezuelan ports. Telegram to Admiral	167
176	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	10,	Arrest of British and German subjects at Carácas, and action of United States' Minister	168
177	" ..	Telegraphic	11,	British and German subjects at Carácas. Further action of United States' Minister	168
178	" ..	Telegraphic	11,	Release of British and German subjects at Carácas	168
179	" ..	Telegraphic	11,	British subjects at Carácas. Energy of United States' Minister in rendering assistance	169
180	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	11,	British subjects at La Guayra	169
181	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	11,	British subjects at Carácas. Thanks for action of United States' Minister	169
182	To Mr. Buchanan	..	11,	Blockade of Venezuelan ports. Conversation with German Ambassador	169
183	Admiralty ..	..	12,	Blockade of Venezuelan ports. Instructions to Admiral	170
184	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	12,	British subjects at Carácas. Acknowledges Nos. 177, 178, and 179. Thanks to United States' Government	171
185	Mr. White ..	..	13,	Venezuelan Government propose reference to arbitration	171
186	To Mr. Buchanan	..	13,	German views as to blockade	172
187	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	14,	Venezuelan reply to ultimatum	172
188	" ..	Telegraphic	14,	Embargo removed from La Guayra Harbour Corporation	172
189	M. Grénier ..	..	14,	Belgian claims	172
190	To Mr. Buchanan	..	15,	Venezuelan proposal for arbitration (see No. 185). Conversation with German Ambassador	173
191	To Sir M. Herbert ..	..	15,	Venezuelan proposal for arbitration. Conversation with United States' Chargé d'Affaires	173
192	Admiralty ..	..	16,	Bombardment of Puerto Cabello	174

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
193	To Mr. Buchanan	..	Dec. 16, 1902	Venezuelan proposal for arbitration. Conversation with German Ambassador. Certain claims to be reserved	174
194	Count Metternich	..	17,	Memorandum on German claims	175
195	To Sir M. Herbert	..	17,	Arbitration. Conversation with United States' Chargé d'Affaires	175
196	Mr. Haggard	..	Nov. 27,	Case of J. N. Kelly (see No. 163). Note to Venezuelan Government	176
197	Admiralty	..	Dec. 18,	Blockade of Venezuelan ports. Ships ready	177
198	To Sir M. Herbert	..	18,	Arbitration. His Majesty's Government accept in principle, certain claims being reserved. Would President of United States act as Arbitrator?	177
199	To Sir F. Lascelles	..	18,	Venezuelan proposal for arbitration. Conversation with German Ambassador. Reservations to be made	177
200	To Admiralty	..	18,	Blockade. Admiral should establish on 20th December	178
201	M. Delcassé to M. Cambon	..	18,	French claim to most-favoured-nation treatment	179
202	Admiralty	..	19,	Blockade. Instruction to Admiral	179
203	Mr. White.. ..	..	19,	Mr. Bowen has received full powers to negotiate with Great Britain, Germany, and Italy	180
204	To Mr. White	..	19,	Acknowledges above. His Majesty's Government prefer arbitration	180
205	To M. Grénier	..	19,	Belgian claims (No. 189). Will not be prejudiced	181
206	"London Gazette"	..	20,	Notification of blockade	181
207	To Sir F. Lascelles	..	22,	Venezuelan proposal for arbitration. German reply	181
208	To Sir M. Herbert	..	22,	Arbitration. President of United States recommends reference to Tribunal of the Hague. His Majesty's Government prepared to accept	182
209	Memorandum communicated to Mr. White	..	23,	Venezuelan proposal for arbitration. Reply of His Majesty's Government. Reservations to be made. Different classes of claims. If President cannot act as Arbitrator His Majesty's Government prepared to refer to the Tribunal at the Hague	183
210	To Sir M. Herbert	..	23,	Inform of above	183
211	To Sir R. Rodd	..	26,	Italian reply to proposal for arbitration. Conversation with Italian First Secretary	184
212	Mr. White.. ..	..	27,	Arbitration. Replies to No. 209. President considers reference to the Hague the best means of effecting settlement. All Governments concerned accept this proposition in principle	184
213	To Sir M. Herbert	..	27,	Conversation with United States' Chargé d'Affaires. Conditions of arbitration may be communicated to Venezuelan Government. Regret that President found himself unable to arbitrate	185

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
214	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	Dec. 30, 1902	Arbitration. United States' communication with German Government	185
215	Mr. White..	..	Jan. 1, 1903	President Castro recognizes claims in principle, and desires to send Mr. Bowen to Washington to arrange for immediate settlement, or reference to arbitration.. ..	186
216	To Sir M. Herbert ..	..	1,	Conversation with United States' Chargé d'Affaires on above. Mr. Bowen's selection not suggested by United States' Government	186
217	Mr. Haggard ..	..	Dec. 14, 1902	Ultimatum. Transmits notes to Venezuelan Government, and their reply ..	186
218	Sir M. Herbert ..	..	19,	British interests at Carácas. Thanks conveyed to United States' Government ..	191
219	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	Jan. 2, 1903	President Castro's answer. Conversation with German Ambassador as to course to be followed. Conditions must be accepted before negotiations with Mr. Bowen ..	189
220	To Sir R. Rodd ..	..	2,	President Castro's answer. Conversation with Italian Ambassador	190
221	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	3,	President Castro's answer. Draft of German reply	191
222	To Mr. White ..	..	5,	President Castro's answer. Assurances required as to interpretation of his language. Reply of His Majesty's Government	191
223	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	5,	President Castro's answer. Reply of His Majesty's Government communicated to German Ambassador	192
224	To Sir R. Rodd ..	..	5,	Italian reply to President Castro. Conversation with Italian Chargé d'Affaires ..	192
225	" "	..	7,	Italian reply to President Castro. Further conversation with Italian Chargé d'Affaires	192
226	Sir M. Herbert ..	..	Dec. 28, 1902	British interests at Carácas. Action of United States' Minister	193
227	Sir R. Rodd ..	..	Jan. 8, 1903	Italian claims. No special reserves made, but in analogous cases Italy will claim similar treatment to other two Powers	194
228	Mr. White..	..	9,	President Castro accepts conditions of Great Britain and Germany. Mr. Bowen to go at once to Washington. Guarantee of customs to be given	194
229	To Mr. White ..	..	9,	Acknowledges above	
230	Admiralty ..	..	8,	Seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats. British subjects brought off. Seizure of British steamer "Topaze" by Venezuelans. Bombardment of Puerto Cabello. Admiral's Report ..	199
231	Memorandum communicated by Count Metternich	..	10,	President Castro's communication (see No. 228). German reply	207
232	Mr. Haggard ..	..	Dec. 19, 1902	Seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats. President Castro's Proclamation	207
233	To Sir M. Herbert	..	Jan. 12, 1903	Blockade. Anxiety of Mr. Bowen that it should be raised. Question of guarantee of customs. Conversation with United States' Chargé d'Affaires	207

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
234	To Sir M. Herbert ..	..	Jan. 13, 1903	General instructions for negotiations with Mr. Bowen	209
235	Mr. Haggard ..	..	Dec. 30, 1902	Outrage on British schooner "Harry Troop" by Venezuelan authorities ..	214
236	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	Jan. 15, 1903	President Castro's communication (see No. 228). Conversation with German Ambassador. Exchange of views as to negotiations with Mr. Bowen	215
237	To Sir M. Herbert ..	..	16,	Transmits above. His Majesty's Government not prepared to join in a general discussion. Negotiations with Mr. Bowen should be confined to question of British claims ..	216
238	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	21,	Mr. Bowen's request that blockade should be raised	217
239	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	21,	Answers above. Certain conditions must be fulfilled before blockade can be raised ..	217
240	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	23,	Mr. Bowen accepts conditions of His Majesty's Government. His proposals for meeting claims by 30 per cent. of receipts of Puerto Cabello and La Guayra custom-houses ..	217
241	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	24,	Mr. Bowen's proposals satisfactory in principle, but fuller information is required as to value of customs, and whether they are for blockading Powers only	217
242	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	24,	Mr. Bowen's estimate of Customs revenue ..	218
243	" ..	Telegraphic	24,	Mr. Bowen's full powers	218
244	" ..	Telegraphic	25,	Answers No. 241. Value of customs. Each of creditor Powers to receive share of 30 per cent.	219
245	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	26,	His Majesty's Government do not desire to make difficulties, but require further information as to manner of meeting claims ..	219
246	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	27,	Mr. Bowen cannot give blockading Powers priority	220
247	" ..	Telegraphic	27,	Mr. Bowen's agreement for payment of 30 per cent. of customs receipts of two ports ..	220
248	" ..	Telegraphic	27,	Mr. Bowen will pay 5,500% for first-line claims on signature of Protocol of Agreement ..	220
249	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	27,	Conversation with German Ambassador as to Mr. Bowen's proposals	220
250	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	28,	Mr. Bowen hopes questions of detail will be postponed till after blockade is raised ..	221
251	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	28,	His Majesty's Government cannot allow their claims to be placed on a level with those of non-blockading Powers. Claims might be paid off in six years	221
252	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	29,	Mr. Bowen objects to giving priority to blockading Powers	221
253	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	29,	Answers No. 250. His Majesty's Government ready to postpone questions of detail ..	222
254	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	29,	Conversation with German Ambassador as to priority for blockading Powers	222

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

XV

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
255	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	Jan. 30, 1903	As Mr. Bowen cannot come to any arrangement for giving priority to claims of blockading Powers, the most expeditious course is to refer whole question to the Hague, unless President of the United States will adjudicate on point at issue ..	222
256	" ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 1,	His Majesty's Government do not wish to obstruct any reasonable arrangement with other Powers, but require priority for first-rank and satisfactory settlement for second-rank claims in six or seven years ..	223
257	" ..	Telegraphic	2,	Procedure suggested if proposal given in No. 255 is carried out ..	224
258	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	2,	Mr. Bowen gives no hope of acceptance of last proposal of His Majesty's Government ..	224
259	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	3,	If proposals contained in No. 256 fail, President of United States should be asked to adjudicate ..	224
260	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	3,	Mr. Bowen cannot accept proposals of His Majesty's Government, as neutral Powers hold him to promise of equal treatment ..	224
261	" ..	Telegraphic	4,	Mr. Bowen offers three Powers whole of 30 per cent. of customs of two ports for three months ..	225
262	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	4,	Is Mr. Bowen's offer to meet first-line claims?	225
263	" ..	Telegraphic	4,	President now to be asked to adjudicate on question of priority ..	225
264	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	5,	Answers No. 262. Mr. Bowen's last offer is to meet first-rank claims ..	225
265	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	5,	Draft Protocol of Agreement ..	225
266	" ..	Telegraphic	5,	Mr. Bowen's offer of 30 per cent. of customs for three months cannot be accepted ..	227
267	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	6,	President asked to adjudicate on question of priority ..	227
268	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	..	6,	German Government agree that offer of 30 per cent. of customs for three months in inadmissible ..	227
269	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	7,	President considers reference to the Hague more satisfactory than adjudication by him. Has said blockade will cease on signature of Protocol ..	228
270	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	7,	His Majesty's Government regret President's inability to adjudicate. Protocol should now be submitted to Mr. Bowen ..	228
271	Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	13,	Protocols signed ..	228
272	To Sir M. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	14,	Orders given to raise blockade ..	228

Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Venezuela.

No. 1.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.— (Received March 18.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 16, 1901.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of Trinidad reporting the seizure of persons and property of certain individuals, some of whom are British subjects, on the Island of Patos, being part of the Colony of Trinidad, by soldiers from the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto."

2. His Lordship will, no doubt, cause serious representations to be at once addressed to the Venezuelan Government on the subject of this grave outrage.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Extract)

Government House, February 24, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the 22nd ultimo, the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto," under the command of General Velutini, landed in two boats a force of some twenty Venezuelan soldiers, under the command of Colonel Enrico Torres, on the Island of Patos, or Goose Island, in the Grand Bocas, such island being British territory and part of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago. This armed force seized four boats belonging to peaceful traders, the crews of which had taken refuge from rough weather on the island, confiscated the cargoes and valuables found in the boats, and carried away some ten or eleven persons whom they captured, leaving on the island without food or water or means of escape, some twelve other persons who had escaped into the scrub.

Of the boats seized, one was the property of a British subject named Edward Brown, a resident in Trinidad. The other three were Venezuelan boats, but one had three British subjects as passengers.

The names of the British subjects who were carried away by the "Augusto" were Mrs. Jones, Dolphus, Domingue, Montout, Graham, Maxwell, Manto (?), and George. Of these, Mrs. Jones was landed at Yacua, and returned to Trinidad, George was landed at Mapire, and John (? Manto or Graham) at Guiria.

I inclose statements made on oath before the Harbour-master on the 25th and 26th January, by five of the men; also a joint report by the Attorney-General (the Hon. N. Nathan, Q.C.), and the Harbour-master (Captain Saunders). Also a statement which was volunteered by the Venezuelan Consul (Mr. J. Arraiz) to the Colonial Secretary (Sir C. C. Knollys) on the 25th January, which was the day on which this occurrence was first heard of at Port of Spain. This statement was immediately written down by the Colonial Secretary.

To satisfy myself on the position, I took advantage of the presence here of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Bedford, the Commander-in-chief of the North American and West Indian Squadron, to whom I have shown the correspondence, and accompanied by the Colonial Secretary and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, visited in

His Majesty's ship "Quail" the Island of Patos, on which I landed on the 4th instant, when I found it uninhabited and with no house.

Very serious notice should be taken of this incident, as otherwise neither life nor property will be safe on those parts of Trinidad which are nearest to Venezuela.

On the 31st January I forwarded to the Chargé d'Affaires at Caracas (Mr. A. C. Grant Duff), copies of the inclosures to this despatch.

P.S.—I add a Report by the Colonial Secretary (Sir C. C. Knollys) of an interview which took place to-day between him and the Venezuelan Consul under my instructions.

February 27, 1901.

P.S.—I also inclose a copy of a Memorandum by the Attorney-General forwarding a further statement by a woman named Greigo Martinez, respecting the occurrences at Patos on the 22nd January.

February 28, 1901.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Statement of Inocente Firmin.

I, INOCENTE FIRMIN, native of Carupano, Venezuela, carpenter, make oath and say as follows:—

I was a passenger on board a boat coming from Guiria to Port of Spain; there was no cargo on board, but there were three other boats in company with us having cargoes of cocoa.

On Monday the 21st January, about midnight, we reached the Island of Patos and landed for the purpose of cooking our food and to wait the tide to come up to Port of Spain.

On Tuesday at 8 A.M., the Venezuelan guardacosta "Augusto" laid off Patos and hailed us, and told us to send one of the boats so that they might give us a guarantee to proceed; we did not send the boat, we told the "Augusto" that we were in foreign waters.

We waited there, and at about 8 P.M. sent two boats to the shore with men where we were; on seeing them about twelve of us ran in the bush, and the men from the "Augusto" took eleven men and two women prisoners, I do not know what has become of them, the "Augusto" then went away. At about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night a boat was passing Patos and we called out to the men in it and they took in four of us and brought us to Port of Spain, the boat could not carry any more, having four men on board as crew.

We paid the boat 15 dollars to bring us to town. About six or eight of the total number belong to Trinidad, about four or five of whom were taken on board the "Augusto;" one of the latter was a woman.

(Signed) INOCENTE FIRMIN.

Interpreted and explained to the within-named Inocente Firmin in Spanish, and he appeared to understand the same.

Signed) J. C. LYON, JNR

Sworn to at the Harbour-master's office, in the town of Port of Spain, this 25th day of January, 1901.

Before me:

(Signed) JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Harbour-master's Office, January 25, 1901.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Statement of Edward Brown.

I, EDWARD BROWN, a native of Trinidad, make oath and say:—

On Monday the 21st instant, at about 6 p.m., I left Mapire, Venezuela, to come to Trinidad in a boat, with seven persons all told, eight bags of cocoa, my clothes and 34 dol. 8 c. At about 4 A.M. on Tuesday, I arrived at Patos. About 6 A.M., a Venezuelan guardacosta passed, and, seeing us, they remained cruising about the whole day. Being afraid to leave the island whilst the guardacosta was cruising around I hauled my boat ashore. About 7 p.m. a boat with soldiers came ashore, and they took my boat and cargo. At that time I was hiding in the bush. When they left I returned to the shore to see if they had left anything, but another boat came and they took what the others had left.

The soldiers did not tell me anything as I did not give them a chance, being in hiding during the whole time they were on the island.

(Signed) EDWARD BROWN, his × mark.

Witness:

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE.

Interpreted and explained to the within-named Edward Brown, in patois, and he appeared to understand the same.

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE.

Sworn to at the Harbour-master's office, in the town of Port of Spain this 26th day of January, 1901.

Before me:

(Signed) JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Harbour-master's Office, January 26, 1901.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Statement of Domingue Rich.

I, DOMINGUE RICH, a native of Trinidad, make oath and say:—

On Monday the 21st instant, at about 6 A.M., I took passage from Mapire to Trinidad in a boat captained by Edward Brown, with my clothes and 25 dollars in cash. At about 4 A.M. on Tuesday we arrived at Patos. And about 6 A.M. we saw a Venezuelan guardacosta cruising around. About 7 p.m. a boat came ashore with about twenty soldiers. On seeing them, being afraid they would take me prisoner, I escaped inland, and they took all the boats and cargoes. About 8 p.m. they returned and took some prisoners, and again left for the steamer. I do not know how many prisoners they took.

I have lost all my money and clothes, which the Venezuelans have taken.

(Signed) DOMINGUE RICH, his × mark.

Witness to mark:

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE.

Interpreted and explained to the within-named Domingue Rich, in patois, and he appeared to understand the same.

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE.

Sworn to before me at the Harbour-master's office, Port of Spain, this 26th day of January, 1901.

Before me:

(Signed) JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Harbour-master's Office, January 26, 1901.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Statement of Alfred Pierre

I, PARAGUA *alias* Alfred Pierre, a native of India, who arrived here as a child some forty years ago, and worked as a labourer at various places for eight years, when I commenced trading to Venezuela, make oath and say :—

On Monday the 21st instant, I left Mapire, Venezuela, to come to Trinidad, in a boat with four persons and ten bags of cocoa. I also had 5 dollars in cash and my clothes. On Tuesday at about 5 A.M., I disembarked at Patos, as I saw the "Augusto," a Venezuela guardacosta, and was afraid they would take me prisoner.

Later a boat with three men put off from the "Augusto" and came ashore. They called upon me to surrender but I refused to as I was in British waters. They then left for reinforcements and returned with about twenty armed soldiers. Seeing them I escaped inland, and they seized my boat, cargo, clothes and the 5 dollars which I had left in the boat.

(Signed) ALFRED PIERRE, his X mark.

Witness :

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE.

Interpreted and explained to the within-named Paragua *alias* Alfred Pierre, in patois, and he appeared to understand the same.

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE.

Sworn to at the Harbour-master's office, in the town of Port of Spain, this 26th day of January, 1901.

Before me :

(Signed) JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Harbour-master's Office, January 26, 1901.

Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Statement of Felix Aceituno.

I, FELIX ACEITUNO, a native of Guiria, Venezuela, make oath and say :—

On Monday, the 21st instant, at about 6 P.M., I left Mapire in my boat for Trinidad. I had as cargo, fourteen bags of cocoa, also my clothes and 150 dollars in cash. At about 4 A.M. I saw a guardacosta, and, during the whole day, she remained cruising about the island.

About 5 P.M. they sent a boat, commanded by one Henrique Torres, ashore with three men, and they told us to go on board with them. This we refused to do as we were on British soil, and they said if we would not go they would take our boats—which they did, and mine was the first taken.

About 6:30 P.M. they returned with two boats and about twenty armed soldiers, and they collected and took away everything they could find—even our food and water—and told us they would leave us there to die of hunger and thirst.

During the whole night and until 4 o'clock the next morning the soldiers remained on guard ashore. They then left us taking everything with them.

(Signed) FELIX ACEITUNO.

Interpreted and explained to the within-named Felix Aceituno, in patois, and he appeared to understand the same.

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE,

Sworn to at the Harbour-master's office in the town of Port of Spain, this 26th day of January, 1901.

(Signed) JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Harbour-master's Office, January 26, 1901.

Inclosure 7 in No. 1.

Report of Attorney-General and Harbour-master.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

WE beg to report that we have this day examined separately through interpreters the following witnesses :—

Edward Brown, Nieves Bello, Felix Aceituno, Inocente Firmin, Angel Garcia, Josa Rivas, Elias Sanchez and Pedro Cortez, and one lady who spoke English, Elvelina Jones.

It appears from the evidence of all these persons (transcript of the shorthand notes of which will be forwarded in due course) that on the 21st instant four boats, three Venezuelan and one belonging to a British subject named E. Brown were at Patos waiting for the tide, on their way to Port of Spain, laden with cocoa. There were several passengers on board. There is no reason to suppose that any one of them was connected with the revolution, or had escaped as a belligerent from hostilities now being carried on. The boats were of the class which carry on the usual traffic between Port of Spain and the neighbouring ports of the Republic, and may or may not be in the habit on their outward voyage of attempting to smuggle goods into Venezuela ; but on this occasion they appeared to have been simply carrying cargo and passengers in the ordinary way to Port of Spain, and to have been waiting at Patos for the tide to bring them up. Something like twenty-five people altogether were sailors and passengers in the boats, several of whom were British subjects.

There is no doubt that early in the morning of the 22nd instant, a vessel known as the "Augusto," belonging to the Venezuelan Government, with one Velutini in command, appeared off the cove at Patos, and remained there until the next morning close in shore. There is also no doubt that about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 22nd one Enrico Torres, described as a Colonel, summoned the people then on shore to come on board the "Augusto," and that the persons on shore declined to comply with this demand, alleging that they were on British territory. That later on in the evening, the same Torres with two boats and some twenty soldiers of the Venezuelan army landed on the Island of Patos, and proceeded to carry out their threats, by removing the boats, collecting the cargo, and moving it on board the "Augusto." About one-half of the party fled into the woods, and the remainder were compelled to get on board the "Augusto." Two women and one sick boy were allowed to land at a place known as Yaqua on the Venezuelan coast, from where one person, Elvelina Jones, has managed to make her escape. From her evidence it appears that the remaining persons on board the "Augusto" were compelled to sign a paper which was described by this witness as a statement that they had come on board voluntarily ; which statement, as far as we are able to ascertain, is entirely untrue.

There is no doubt, if the evidence of these persons can be believed, and we can see no reason for disbelieving it, that some nine or ten people, British subjects for the most part, were taken by the steamship "Augusto," under the command of Velutini by Torres, said to be a Colonel in the Venezuelan army, and as to the whereabouts of these people we have no evidence, though it is believed that one has escaped and is in this island.

The Island of Patos is British territory, and is so stated to be in the communication made by the Venezuelan Consul to you. With regard to that communication there is no evidence before us that any person among those on board of the boats were revolutionists, or were chased by any gun-boat, or that any revolutionists forced the boats to put into Patos, and it is certainly not true that the boats voluntarily approached the "Augusto," and reported the matter, and explained that they were forced by superior numbers to land at Patos. For the whole of that statement, so far as we can ascertain, there is not the slightest ground of truth whatever.

It is stated by the witnesses that the crew of the "Augusto" appropriated one of the boats, the smallest, and cast the others adrift in the Gulf ; but the evidence is not specific as to this. We are not aware of any reason for the suggestion that Patos is made the point of departure for revolutionists. As far as we can ascertain none of these people had anything to do with the disturbances at present raging in the Republic, but there may be some ground for this assertion of which we are at present ignorant. The acts of the Commander of the "Augusto," if done by a private individual, would amount to piracy ; but it seems that that vessel was under the command of an officer of the Venezuelan army, and therefore we presume that if

there has been anything irregular it must form the subject of representations to the Government of the Republic. There seem to be several British subjects who have been carried away from British territory by armed forces of the Republic, and whose whereabouts have not been accounted for as yet. Any further evidence that can will be obtained and submitted in due course.

(Signed)

NATHL. NATHAN,

Attorney-General.

JAMES B. SAUNDERS,

Harbour-master.

January 29, 1901.

Inclosure 8 in No. 1.

Statement of Venezuelan Consul.

(Memo.)

THE Venezuelan Consul, M. J. Arraiz, accompanied us, interpreted by M. Ybarra, the Chief of the Venezuelan navy, now seeing after the repairs to the Venezuelan ships here, called to-day and reported as follows:—

Several boats were coming from Venezuela, perhaps Guiria, having on board many revolutionists leaving Venezuela. They were chased by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto." The revolutionists forced the boats to put into Goose Island (Patos), where they landed. The "Augusto" could not follow them because Patos was English territory; but, after the revolutionists had landed, the boats voluntarily approached the "Augusto," and reported the matter, explaining that they were forced by superior numbers to land at Patos. The boats then went away. The people were left on Patos. The "Augusto" did not go near them. The Consul reports this because the people are still on Patos.

He also asks if the police cannot prevent Patos being made the point of departure of the revolutionists.

(Initialled)

C. C. K.

January 25, 1901.

Inclosure 9 in No. 1.

Memorandum by the Colonial Secretary.

I HAVE just seen the Venezuelan Consul, Mr. J. Arraiz, who was accompanied by a young naval officer in uniform as interpreter.

I explained to him the information received by this Government concerning the landing of soldiers, &c., at Patos on the 22nd January, and said that a report of the occurrence would be sent to the British Government.

He was much taken aback, and said that the soldiers never landed, then he said that he had a document signed by those who left in the "Augusto" stating what had taken place; lastly, he said that the nationality of Patos was a disputed point. This I at once refuted, saying that Patos was in the possession of the English before Venezuela was a nation.

I don't think he seriously meant to dispute the nationality of Patos, and said no more on that point. (See report of our interview of the 25th January, p. 37 of this inclosure, when he admitted that Patos is British territory).

He then said he was very sorry that there should be any dispute between the two Governments, as the Venezuelan Government wished to be on good terms with the Trinidad Government, and General Castro desired to encourage commerce, and was thinking of removing the 30 per cent. additional duty. He asked what I wanted him to do.

I said that I did not want him to do anything. I told him what this Government is doing in order that we may remain friends, and that the matter now will be settled by the Government in England, and that even if there is a difference of this kind between the two Governments, that is no reason why we should not remain friends.

He then took his leave in a most friendly manner.

(Signed)

C. C. KNOLLYS.

February 27, 1901.

7

Inclosure 10 in No. 1.

Memorandum from Attorney-General.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

FORWARDED in connection with previous papers. Of the eleven people kidnapped by the "Augusto," three are now accounted for. On referring to the evidence taken verbally you will find that of the remaining eight, at least two, Maxwell and Graham, are British subjects. There may be others. What has become of those people is not at present known, or whether there is any likelihood of their being seen in Trinidad again.

(Signed) NATHL. NATHAN.

February 8, 1901.

Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

Statement of Greigo Martinez.

I, GREIGO MARTINEZ, native of Rio Grande, Venezuela, make oath and declare as follows:—

I was a passenger on the boat of one Felix Aceituno, and left Rio Grande for Port of Spain on the 17th January last; we reached Patos on the following day (18th), and landed there to await the tide. Early on Tuesday morning we saw the Venezuelan Guarda Costa "Augusto" lying off the island, and the men on board called to us to go on board that vessel, but we refused, saying we were on English land. The "Augusto" then sent a boat ashore with soldiers, who took some of us prisoners and carried us on board with our luggage. They also seized all the boats and their cargoes. Eleven of us were taken on board the "Augusto," the rest of the party ran away and hid in the bush, and were not taken prisoners. The "Augusto" landed Madame Elvy Jones (a native of Trinidad), a boy called Adolphus Peter, and myself at Yacua in Venezuela. I do not know where the other people who were made prisoners have been carried to. The men on board the "Augusto" took 25 dollars from my basket, but returned my clothing and other effects. I returned to Port of Spain from Yacua by the boat "Salvador" on Saturday last the 2nd instant.

(Signed) GREIGO MARTINEZ, her × mark.

Witness:

(Signed) Q. H. SPICER.

Interpreted and explained to the within-named Greigo Martinez, in patois, by me, and she appeared to understand the same.

(Signed) APOLON MATRIEN.

Sworn to at the Harbour-master's office, in the town of Port of Spain, this 7th day of February, 1901. Before me,

Before me:

(Signed) JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Harbour-master's Office, February 7, 1901.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 21, 1901.

THE Colonial Office has communicated a report relative to the seizure of British subjects on the Island of Patos.

Please report whether you have brought the matter to the notice of the Venezuelan Government, and state the result of your representations.

No. 3.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

Caracas, March 22, 1901.

I RECENTLY mentioned the occurrence of Patos Island, referred to in your telegram of the 21st instant, to the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Señor Blanco informed me that a report relative to the searching of a certain boat off Patos had been furnished by the Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain, but that no information as to the alleged seizure of British subjects had reached him.

I have now requested that the proceedings of the Commander of the "Augusto" may be made the subject of a stringent investigation by the Venezuelan Government.

No. 4.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 23, 1901.

INFORM me by telegraph of the result of the representations reported in your telegram of the 22nd instant.

Communicate to Venezuelan Government the facts as reported to the Governor of Trinidad if you have not already done so.

No. 5.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Caracas, March 26, 1901.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 23rd March, the Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad will be instructed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to send a further report on the incident on Patos Island, and Minister of War will be requested to obtain an account of the proceedings of "Augusto" from her Commander.

The Minister of the Interior will also be asked to obtain information as to the persons who are reported to have been seized on the occasion.

No. 6.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 11.)

My Lord,

Caracas, March 22, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have received information respecting the ill-treatment of a British subject at the hands of the soldiers of the Venezuelan army.

The facts are as follows:—

James Nathan Kelly, a British subject and native of Trinidad, has been settled for some years at Rio Grande in the vicinity of Guiria, where he was the possessor of an estate on which he cultivated coffee and cocoa. He has never interfered in politics, and is regarded by the local Venezuelan authorities as a quiet and law-abiding person.

In the month of January last Rio Grande was occupied by troops of the Venezuelan Government. An officer proceeded to Mr. Kelly's house, arrested him, and brought him before a court-martial. His house was pillaged, and a considerable amount of property was stolen.

Mrs. Kelly took refuge in the forest, and eventually escaped to Port of Spain by way of Guiria.

Since the first outrage Mr. Kelly's estate has been subjected to further depredations.

I saw no reason to doubt the truth of Mr. Kelly's story as communicated to

me. It does not differ from many cases of a similar kind. It is, however, the first outrage committed against a British subject that has occurred in connection with the late disturbances in the Eastern States of this Republic.

I lost no time in bringing the matter to the notice of the Venezuelan Government at a recent interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who promised that inquiries should be immediately set on foot. I subsequently addressed to his Excellency a note, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 12, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice a case of outrage on a British subject which, I regret to say, is stated to have been perpetrated by troops of the Venezuelan Government during the late insurrection in the eastern part of this country. The facts, as related to me, are as follows:—

A British subject, James Nathan Kelly, a native of the Island of Trinidad, aged 40, has been settled in the United States of Venezuela for the last fifteen years. His residence is Rio Grande, where he has purchased an estate on which he carries on the cultivation of coffee and cocoa to a considerable extent.

Mr. Kelly has never intervened in politics, and I am informed that the officials in the neighbourhood of Rio Grande can vouch for his peaceable and law-abiding disposition.

In the month of January last Rio Grande was occupied by troops of the Venezuelan Government. An officer arrested Mr. Kelly, who was sitting at his own door, and dragged him before a court-martial. In the meanwhile, his house was broken open and pillaged. Goods to the value of 300 dollars, furniture worth 300 dollars, cocoa of the value of 1,040 dollars, 1,500 dollars in cash, and a cutter valued at 500 dollars were taken away by the soldiers. Mr. Kelly's wife took refuge in the woods near Rio Grande, and making her way to Guiria, eventually reached Port of Spain in great distress.

Since the first pillage above recounted, Mr. Kelly's house and land have been subjected to further depredations on the part of soldiers of the Government.

I will not dwell on the prejudicial effect on the interests of Venezuela herself caused by occurrences of this nature, as I feel sure that your Excellency will agree with me in thinking that the injury done—not by insurgents, but by soldiers of the Government—to an inoffensive and law-abiding immigrant, who for many years past has been using his best endeavours to increase the wealth and prosperity of this Republic, calls for immediate inquiry and redress.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

No. 7.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 11.)

My Lord,

Caracas, March 23, 1901.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inform you that having recently received a despatch from the Governor of Trinidad suggesting that inquiries should be made in this capital respecting the seizure of certain persons believed to be British subjects on the Island of Patos by a Venezuelan officer belonging to the gun-boat "Augusto" on the 22nd January last, I asked the Venezuelan Minister at his Excellency's weekly reception on the 19th instant whether any report on this occurrence had been received from the Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad.

I had previously received a despatch from Sir Alfred Moloney respecting the proceedings of the "Augusto" on the date named, but I did not at once bring the matter to the notice of the Venezuelan Government, as further evidence with regard

to the proceedings of that vessel was being collected with a view to laying a report of the incident before His Majesty's Government.

Dr. Blanco stated that the Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain had reported that certain boats had been searched off Patos by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" in the month of January, but that no mention had been made of the detention of any British subjects.

Subsequently, on receipt of your Lordship's telegram, I addressed a note to the Venezuelan Government, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, giving the names of the persons stated to have been carried off, and suggesting the advisability of instituting a stringent inquiry into the proceedings of the Commander of the "Augusto."

I had the honour of reporting the substance of Dr. Blanco's reply to me on this subject by telegraph on the 22nd instant.

On the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 23rd instant, I addressed a further note, of which I have the honour to transmit copy, to the Venezuelan Government giving certain additional particulars respecting the occurrences at Patos in the month of January last, and expressing the hope that I might be speedily furnished with the results of the suggested inquiry into the proceedings of the "Augusto."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 21, 1901.

ON Tuesday, the 19th instant, I had the honour of addressing your Excellency verbally on the subject of an incident which took place at the Island of Patos in the month of January last.

I understood from your Excellency that no report had been received from the Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad respecting the seizure and detention of certain persons by Venezuelan soldiers on that occasion, but, according to information laid before the Governor of Trinidad; the Commander of the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto," on the 22nd of the month in question, captured and carried off several individuals who had landed on Patos from boats which were proceeding from Venezuela to Port of Spain.

There is good reason for supposing that there were British subjects amongst the prisoners, and the names of those who, doubtless, belong to that category are as follows :—

Mrs. Jones.
Dolphus.
Domingue.
Montout.

Graham.
Manto.
George.

Of these, Mrs. Jones was subsequently landed at Yacua, in Venezuela, whence she returned to Port of Spain; George was landed at Mapire; and a man named John, believed to be either Manto or Graham, was landed at Guiria.

The detention of these persons having now been brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government, I have the honour to suggest to your Excellency the advisability of causing a stringent inquiry to be instituted into the proceedings of the Commander of the "Augusto," who, according to the sworn testimony of witnesses on Patos at the time, would appear to have been guilty of acts of a grave nature.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 23, 1901.

IN continuation of my note of the day before yesterday respecting the reported seizure of certain British subjects by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto," on the

22nd January last, there are certain additional facts in connection with this incident which I have the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice.

Besides the prisoners carried off by the "Augusto" a number of persons were left in Patos who afterwards gave evidence at Port of Spain. Some of these were Venezuelan citizens and others British subjects.

It appears that there were four boats—three belonging to the Venezuelans and one to a British subject—waiting at Patos on the 21st January last for the tide on their way to Port of Spain, three of the boats having cargoes of cocoa. The number of persons carried by the boats both as sailors and as passengers was about twenty-five. There is no reason to believe that any of them were connected with the insurrection which was then in progress in the eastern part of the Republic. The boats were of the class which carry on the usual traffic between Port of Spain and the neighbouring ports of Venezuela. As they were proceeding to Trinidad there were no grounds for thinking that they were engaged in smuggling operations.

At that time the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" was off Patos, and on the afternoon of the 22nd January last Colonel Enrique Torres, of that vessel, summoned the persons who had landed on the island to come on board the gun-boat. On their refusing to do so Colonel Torres in the evening sent two boats carrying twenty soldiers, who removed the boats and seized the cargo. Part of the persons whose property was thus taken fled into the interior of the island while the remainder were compelled to go on board the "Augusto." Your Excellency is already in possession of the names of the British subjects thus detained.

Of the persons carried off, one, Mrs. Elvelina Jones, a British subject, who escaped from the "Augusto" at Yacua, states in her evidence that the individuals carried away as prisoners on board that vessel were forced to sign a paper which was described by her as a statement that they had come on board voluntarily, but any such statement would appear to be quite at variance with the circumstances of their capture.

I have the honour to express the hope that your Excellency may be shortly in a position to furnish me with the results of the inquiry into the proceedings of Commander Velutini, of the gun-boat "Augusto," in order that I may be able to lay them before His Majesty's Government without delay.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

No. 8.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 25.)

(Extract.)

Cardcas, March 29, 1901.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 26th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I received from the Venezuelan Government, informing me of the steps they propose to take with a view to investigating the occurrences on the Island of Patos on the 22nd January last.

As on previous occasions, when there has been trouble in connection with the island in question, the Venezuelan Government have seen fit to incidentally raise the question of the sovereignty over Patos.

So far I have refrained from making any representation respecting the violation of British territorial waters by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto," and have confined my complaints to the seizure and deportation of certain British subjects by order of the Commander of that vessel.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a note in which I have informed the Venezuelan Government that no new considerations have been adduced to show cause why the Island of Patos should not be considered a dependency of Trinidad, and consequently a portion of His Majesty's dominions, the waters surrounding it being thus British territorial waters.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Grant Duff.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Caracas, March 27, 1901.

WITH reference to your two notes of the 21st and 23rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that this Ministry has been obliged to have recourse to the Departments of the Interior, of Finance, and of War and Marine in order to institute the requisite investigation into the facts therein related by you and on which the subjects named in the first of the said notes found their complaint.

As Venezuela holds that the Island of Patos lawfully belongs to her, the Government will have to consider the incident as it is affected by that circumstance.

Until I can throw light on the matter and see if the act in question is really censurable or has resulted from the natural and very justifiable watchfulness against clandestine trade, I restrict myself to acknowledging the receipt of the two notes of your honourable Legation.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 29, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 27th instant in which you are so good as to inform me of the steps which your Excellency proposes to take for the purpose of investigating the facts which I had the honour of bringing to your Excellency's notice in connection with the seizure of certain British subjects on the Island of Patos by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" in the month of January last.

There is a passage in your Excellency's note which would appear to give expression to a view respecting the sovereignty over Patos, with which I regret to say I am unable to agree.

The passage alluded to is, in translation, as follows:—

"As Venezuela holds that the Island of Patos lawfully belongs to her, the Government will have to consider the incident as it is affected by that circumstance."

On this I have the honour to observe that no new considerations have, as far as I am aware, been adduced to show cause why the Island of Patos should not be considered a dependency of Trinidad, and consequently a portion of His Majesty's dominions, the waters surrounding it being thus British territorial waters.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

No. 9.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 1, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Caracas,* inclosing copies of correspondence with the Venezuelan Government as to the steps taken for the purpose of investigating the occurrence on Patos Island in the month of January last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 10.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord,

Caracas, April 17, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of the declaration of Mrs. E. Jones, one of the persons carried off from Patos by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" on the 22nd January last.

This declaration was forwarded to me by the Governor of Trinidad in a despatch dated the 29th ultimo.

As the declaration of Mrs. Jones showed that she and other British subjects had been compelled, by threats of death, to go on board the "Augusto," and had then been detained on that vessel, being at the same time deprived of their property, I transmitted a copy to the Venezuelan Government in the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Of the declarations of persons who were at Patos on the 22nd January last, most relate more especially to the violation of British territory and waters by the "Augusto."

That of Gregoria Martinez, however, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy,* supports Mrs. Jones' statements, she having also been one of the persons held as prisoners by the "Augusto."

I have, &c.

(Signed) . A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Declaration of Mrs. Jones.

Trinidad :

I, ELVELINA JONES, of No. 2, Rose Street, Port of Spain, married woman, and a British subject, born in Trinidad, do solemnly declare that :

On Monday, the 21st January, I left Mpire in a boat belonging to my brother, Edward Browne, of Port of Spain. At about 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning we reached Patos, and we found three other boats there, one of which was captained by Aceituno.

Shortly after we arrived there the Venezuelan Guarda Costa "Augusto" came and lay off the island. At about 10 A.M. a boat came from the "Augusto," and told us to go off to them ; but we refused to do this, saying we were on British land. The boat went back, and the Guarda Costa remained there all day, till about 6 o'clock in the evening, when another boat came from her, with twenty armed men, under the control of one Henry Torres, who had a sword, and appeared to be in charge of them.

They ordered us all to go aboard the "Augusto" under threats of shooting us ; eleven of us went, and some ran away. They took the four boats that were at Patos, with their cargoes of cocoa, &c., and all the clothing and personal effects of every one. They searched my basket, and I saw them take 20 dollars in Spanish silver from it, being all I possessed, which they kept, but gave me back my clothes ; they took my brother's and those of the other men, but they did not keep the women's clothing. They kept us all on board till the following day without food, and about 11 o'clock in the morning they landed myself, the other woman (Gregoria Martinez), and my cousin, Adolphus Peters, at Yacua. We remained there four days, and returned to Port of Spain in Mr. Solis' boat on Sunday, the 27th January.

I make this declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and according to "The Statutory Declarations Ordinance, 1879," and I am aware that if there is any statement in this declaration which is false in fact, which I know or believe to be false, or do not believe to be true, I am liable to fine and imprisonment.

(Signed) . ELVELINA JONES.

Declared at the Harbour Master's office, Port of Spain, this 13th day of March, 1901.

Before me :

(Signed) J. B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

* See Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, April 9, 1901.

I HAD the honour, on the 23rd ultimo, of furnishing your Excellency with particulars respecting the occurrences which took place on the Island of Patos on the 22nd January last in connection with the seizure of certain British subjects by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto."

I now have the honour to inclose the sworn evidence of Mrs. Elvelina Jones, a British subject, and one of the persons carried off by the vessel in question.

This affidavit shows that the witness was compelled to enter the "Augusto" by threats of death, that she was deprived of a sum of money by the crew of the gun-boat, and that she was detained on board until the following day, when she was landed on Venezuelan territory.

I have the honour to express the hope that your Excellency may shortly be in a position to furnish me with the results of the inquiry into the action of the Commander of the "Augusto."

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

No. 11.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord,

Caracas, April 17, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch and its inclosures which I have received from the Governor of Trinidad, relating to the alleged burning of the sloop "Maria Teresa," the property of a British subject, by a Venezuelan gun-boat off Guiria.

The "Maria Teresa" was owned by Mr. D. Wilson, a native of Grenada, the master, being Mr. G. Patterson. She sailed under the Venezuelan flag as she was engaged in the Venezuelan coasting trade.

During the late disturbances on the Gulf of Paria, the vessel appears to have fallen into the hands of disaffected persons at Yrapa and to have been directed by them to proceed to Guiria. The owner obeyed these orders, an officer of the insurrectionary forces being placed on board. Soon after her arrival at Guiria, on the 13th January last, the "Miranda," a Venezuelan gun-boat entered that port and fired two shots at the "Maria Teresa," which was about to return to Yrapa.

The "Maria Teresa" was then boarded and the Commander of the "Miranda" ordered her to proceed to Trinidad. The master of the "Maria Teresa" prepared to comply with these directions and left Guiria, when the "Miranda" again fired two shots at her. She hove-to and a boat came off from the gun-boat and compelled Mr. Patterson and the remaining members of the crew to leave her. On reaching the "Miranda," they were told that the sloop would be burnt and they themselves imprisoned. The "Maria Teresa" was then plundered and set on fire. Shortly afterwards the "Miranda" left Guiria, and when she was near Point Pima, Mr. Patterson and the two sailors of the "Maria Teresa" were set adrift in an open boat with a piece of an oar.

During the burning of his ship, Mr. D. Wilson, her owner, appears to have been on shore at Guiria, as a prisoner of the insurrectionary authorities.

Mr. Patterson reached a place called Guiniama on the day after that on which he was set adrift, and proceeded to Yrapa, where he was arrested and sent back to Guiria in close confinement. He was there put on board the Venezuelan ship "Augusto," and set free at Rio Grande.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a note in which I have brought these incidents to the notice of the Venezuelan Government. In it I have observed that there are many points in the case, as reported, that require elucidation, as no resistance was offered by the crew of the "Maria Teresa," and no attempt at escape seems to have been made by them. What were the reasons which induced the Commander of the "Miranda" to board the sloop a second time and then plunder and burn her?

Whatever may have been the circumstances which justified the Venezuelan naval authorities in detaining Mr. Wilson's vessel, they would appear to have acted with

excessive and unnecessary violence, and no arguments can possibly be put forward in support of the treatment to which Mr. Patterson and the sailors were subjected when they were set adrift in an open boat.

I have accordingly urged the Venezuelan Government to cause an inquiry to be instituted into the proceedings of the "Miranda," and to furnish me with the results of such investigations as soon as possible.

The Venezuelan Government have been supplied with copies of Messrs. Wilson and Patterson's declarations, and with copies of the translation of the proceedings taken by the former in the Court of the district of Marino at Guiria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Grant Duff.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, March 28, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, copies of a Petition and other documents relating to the reported burning of the sloop "Maria Teresa" by a Venezuelan gun-boat off Guiria on the 12th January last.

Copies of these documents have been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Petition of David Wilson.

TO his Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, Vice-Admiral thereof, &c.

The humble Petition of David Wilson, a native of the Island of Grenada (British West Indies), mariner.

Respectfully sheweth,

1. That your petitioner was, until very recently, owner of the sloop "Maria Teresa," which, for business purposes, traded between this port and Venezuela under the Venezuelan flag.

2. That on or about the 13th day of January last your petitioner's said sloop (under the command of one, G. Patterson), which had been lying off Yrapa, and had been ordered by the revolutionary authorities to proceed to Guiria, was anchored off the last-mentioned port.

3. That at about half-past 2 p.m. of that day (the 13th) the Venezuelan Government's steamer "Miranda" steamed in the said port of Guiria, and immediately dispatched her boat to the said sloop to inquire the destination of the said sloop, and on being answered "Yrapa," the man in charge of the said sloop was at once ordered to raise anchor and sail to Trinidad, as there was no Custom-house in the port.

4. That the order so received was at once complied with, and when the said sloop was sailing off, two shots were fired at her, and she was ordered to stop, which was done; then a boat came alongside the said sloop and removed from her the compass and every article of value which she had on board, including a clothes chest which contained the sum of 177 dollars, all which property was conveyed to the said steamer "Miranda," as well as three sailors, who also were taken to the said steamer and locked up, and then the men in the boat of the "Miranda" returned to the said sloop and threw kerosene oil on the deck and sails and set fire to the sloop, and then the "Miranda" steamed out of the port with the sloop's boat and the three sailors.

5. That at about sunset of the same day they put the three sailors in the sloop's

boat at the distance of about 11 miles from the shore and let them go adrift with only one piece of oar and no sails.

6. That your petitioner has been informed that, as he traded and sailed under the Venezuelan flag, he is not entitled to the protection of the British authorities ; but your petitioner ventures to address your Excellency as a British subject, humbly representing that by the burning of his said sloop, with all her gear and property contained on board of her, your petitioner has lost all that he possessed in this world, and has been deprived of the means of earning his livelihood and consequently, of maintaining his family.

Wherefore, as an act of charity, your petitioner humbly prays your Excellency to take his case into merciful consideration and to extend unto him some relief and assistance.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) DAVID M. WILSON.

Nos. 4 and 3, Almond Walk,
February 1901.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

The Harbour-master to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

March 4, 1901.

HAVING inquired into this matter I have the honour to forward statements of D. M. Wilson, owner, and George Patterson, master, of the sloop "Maria Teresa," which were taken on oath before me this day.

From the evidence of the owner it will be noted that there is no other member of the crew at present in Trinidad.

(Signed) J. B. SAUNDERS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 11.

Affidavit of D. M. Wilson.

MY name is D. M. Wilson ; I am a native of Grenada, and owner of the "Maria Teresa" (sloop), trading under the Venezuelan flag between Trinidad and Venezuela. I used to trade up and down in the sloop myself. On the 10th January, at Yrapa, my sloop "Maria Teresa" was taken charge of by the revolutionary forces and I was ordered to take her to Yaguaraparo to carry troops, and after landing them, I was ordered back to Guiria with an officer on board. We reached there on the morning of the 13th, and I went ashore with the revolutionary officer, the sloop still being under his control, and I was informed that I would be required to return to Yaguaraparo the same afternoon. About 3 o'clock the "Miranda" came in the harbour and I saw my sloop burnt. I was at that time a prisoner of the revolutionists. I was liberated the same evening and returned to Trinidad by the boat "Macareo" on the 26th February, the first opportunity I had to return.

My clothes and belongings were all on board the "Maria Teresa" and there was 177 dollars in my chest. I lost everything.

The master of the "Maria Teresa" is the only member of the crew now in Trinidad. The sloop was registered at Guiria in the name of my sister Lena Wilson. I traded under the Venezuelan flag, as it is necessary for the purpose of trading on the coast of Venezuela. I did not receive any payment or reward for conveying the revolutionary forces, and my sloop was released at the Venezuelan Consulate, Harbour, and Customs Departments in Port of Spain when last leaving on the 8th January.

(Signed) D. M. WILSON.

Sworn to at the Harbour-master's office, in the town and Port of Spain, this 4th day of March, 1901.

Before me,

(Signed) J. B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master.

Inclosure 5 in No. 11.

Affidavit of George Patterson.

MY name is George Patterson. I am a native of Trinidad, residing at 31, Duncan Street. Until lately I was master of the sloop "Maria Teresa," owned by D. M. Wilson, of Trinidad, and trading to Venezuela under the Venezuelan flag.

On the 13th January I left Guiria bound for Yrapa, and the Venezuelan guardacosta "Miranda" met me and fired two shots over the sloop. I hove-to and waited. A boat came from the guardacosta, in which there was an officer, and he demanded where I was going to. I told him Yrapa. He ordered me to proceed to Trinidad as there was no Customs at Guiria. After I had started, the "Miranda" again fired two more shots at me; one going through my sails. I hove-to again and waited for her. The boat came again from the guardacosta and took myself and two sailors (both Trinidadians) on board. I was told by the chief officer, Rosales, that the "Maria Teresa" would be burnt, and that the sailors and myself would be imprisoned. They would not allow us to take any clothes or other belongings with us to the "Miranda." They went again to the "Maria Teresa" and took everything of any value, including our clothes, chests, &c., the ship's compass, &c. They then threw kerosene oil over the deck and sails and set fire to her and burnt her, and completely destroyed her. I was made prisoner on board the "Miranda;" but after she had got off Point Pima, about 11 or 12 miles, they put myself and the two sailors in the "Maria Teresa's" boat with a piece of an oar and set us adrift. This was 2 o'clock in the evening. We reached Guiniana at 7 o'clock next morning, and went on to Yrapa. I was made a prisoner there by the officer commanding the Government troops, on the 18th ultimo, who started with me for Guiria on Sunday the 20th. I was tied with ropes from the 18th to the 23rd, when we reached Guiria. I was put on board the "Augusto" as a prisoner, and remained there till the 30th, when I was sent ashore free at Rio Grande. I walked to Guiria and took passage in the "Josefita" to Trinidad, reaching here on the 5th February.

(Signed) GEORGE PATTERSON.

Sworn to at the Harbour-master's Office, in the town of Port of Spain, this 4th day of March, 1901.

Before me,
(Signed) J. B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master.

Inclosure 6 in No. 11.

The Harbour-master to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

March 23, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter from Mr. D. H. Wilson, covering certain documents relating to the burning of his sloop "Maria Teresa," off Guiria on the 12th January last.

In connection with this matter, sworn statements by D. H. Wilson and George Patterson, master of the vessel, were forwarded to you on the 4th instant.

(Signed) J B SAUNDERS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 11.

Mr. D. Wilson to the Harbour-master, Trinidad.

Sir,

Port of Spain, March 23, 1901.

IN connection with the burning of the sloop "Maria Teresa" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Miranda," I beg to forward inclosed documents, together with translation into English.

These statements were made by three respectable gentlemen resident at Guiria, who have known me as a trader in Venezuela for four years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. WILSON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 11.

Proceedings taken before the Marine Court, Guiria.

(Translation.)

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA.

State of Sucre.

(Seal 5 : its value, 1 bolivar.)

(Signed) VETANCOURT VIGAS.

RICHARD WILSON, British subject, of the city of Port of Spain, of the British Island of Trinidad, and now in this city, and of full age, respectfully lay open before you.

To ends that interest me I appeal to you to summons and make appear before your Court the citizens Estaban Solis, Guillermo E. Diaz, and Mamerto Sifontes, of this vicinity, to answer previously the formalities of law, inclusive that of swearing to the following questions:—

1. If it is true that the Venezuelan gun-boat "Miranda" seized off this port the sloop "Maria Teresa," of 14 tons register, which was under my charge.

2. If it is true that the said gun-boat "Miranda" destroyed by fire the said sloop "Maria Teresa" in sight of this port on the same day as she was taken in custody.

3. If it is true that the said sloop "Maria Teresa," in her voyages from Port of Spain to this port, has always complied with the requirements of the law in entering and clearing, by which they know that there was never any case against her for breach of the Revenue Laws.

After the evidences have been taken, I beg that the originals be returned to me.

This is an act of justice I ask at Guiria, on the 11th day of March, 1901.

(Signed) R. WILSON.

*Court of the District of Marino, Guiria,
March 11, 1901.*

The present Bill has been presented; let the witnesses mentioned above be cited and their evidences taken.

(Signed) JUAN FRANCO,
Stipendiary J.P.(Signed) M. PENALOSA,
Clerk of the Court.

In the same audience (on the same day) appeared by summons the citizen Esteban Solis, who, after having been sworn, said: "I am Esteban Solis, of this city, of 36 years of age, married. I am a merchant." It was read to him the respective Articles of the Civil Code, and said: "I have no impediment whatever in giving my evidence."

There and then the first question was read to him, and he answered thus:—

"It is quite true, and I know to my own knowledge what is stated in the first question."

To the second question: "I know it because I was an eye-witness: that in front of this port the sloop 'Maria Teresa' was set on fire; which, before being burnt, was coming in towed by the steamer 'Miranda.'"

To the third question: "Being consignee of the said vessel, I declare that never while she was belonging to Mr. Wilson had any case brought against her for breach of the Revenue Laws, and that she always entered and cleared legally." The questions being finished, the evidence was read to the witness, and he declared the same to be correct, and signed with the Justice and Clerk of the Court.

(Signed) ESTABAN SOLIS.

(Signed) JUAN FRANCO,
*Stipendiary Justice.*M. PENALOSA,
Clerk of the Court.

Immediately after appeared by summons the citizen Mamerto Sifontes, and swore to speak the truth according to the Catholic religion, which is the one he professes. He said that his name is Mamerto Sifontes. He is 56 years of age. Married, and a merchant, and is belonging to this city. The respective Articles of the Civil Code were read to him, and he said: "I have no impediment to give evidence." There and then the first question was read to him, and he answered that he knows to his own knowledge everything stated in this question in all its parts.

To the second: "I know it to my own knowledge, because I was an eye-witness to the burning of the sloop 'Maria Teresa,' after she was being towed by the steamer 'Miranda.'"

To the third: "I know there has never been any case brought against the said sloop 'Maria Teresa' for any breach of the Revenue Laws."

His evidence being finished, it was read to him, and he said it was correct, and signed with the Justice and Clerk of the Court.

(Signed) MAMERTO SIFONTES.

(Signed) JUAN FRANCO,
Stipendiary Magistrate.
M. PENALOSA,
Clerk of the Court.

Immediately after, citizen Guillermo E. Diaz, having been cited, appeared, and, after been sworn, promised to say the truth according to the Catholic religion, which he professes. He said his name is the one above written, of 44 years of age, merchant by trade, and belongs to this city. The respective Articles of the Civil Code were read to him, and he said:—

"I have no impediment whatever to give evidence," and then the first question was read to him, and he answered that "it is true in all its parts the question just put to me."

To the second: "It is true, also, that the steamer 'Miranda' set on fire the said sloop 'Maria Teresa' in sight of this port the same day on which she was taken in custody."

To the third: "It is true this question in all its parts, as never has there been any case against the said sloop for breach of the Revenue Laws, and she has always arrived at this port properly cleared." His evidence being finished, it was read to him, and he said it was correct, and signed with the Justice and Clerk of the Court.

(Signed) GILL. ED. DIAZ.

(Signed) JUAN FRANCO,
Stipendiary Justice.
A. A. PENALOSA,
Clerk of the Court.

*Court of Marino District, Guiria,
March 11, 1901.*

This evidence having been taken and delivered to the interested party.

(Signed) JUAN FRANCO,
Stipendiary Justice.

(Signed) A. A. PENALOSA,
Clerk of the Court.

Note.—It is composed of three folios, which we delivered to the interested party, Richard Wilson, in compliance with the preceding demand.

Certified, dated and signed.

(Signed) A. A. PENALOSA, *Clerk.*

I certify that the above-written signatures Juan Franco and A. A. Penalosa are true, and the same they use in all their private and public acts, and are as they are signed Justice and Clerk of the Court of this district, 11th March, 1901.

(Signed and sealed)

ENRIQUE GARCIA PERMUY,

Vice-Consul of His Catholic Majesty.

*Vice-Consulate of Spain in Guiria,
March 11, 1901.*

Note.—At the request of the interested party, I certify that there is no Consul of His Britannic Majesty in this Consular district.

(Signed)

PERMUY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 11.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, April 9, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice certain documents relating to the reported burning of the sloop "Maria Teresa," a vessel sailing under the Venezuelan flag, but owned by Mr. David Wilson, a British subject.

These papers consist of the sworn evidence of Mr. Wilson and Mr. George Patterson, the master of the "Maria Teresa," and translation of the proceedings in the Court of the district of Marino, Guiria.

It appears that the sloop "Maria Teresa" was taken by the insurrectionary troops at Yrapa on the 10th January last, and ordered to proceed to Yaguaraparo with soldiers who were landed there. She was then directed to sail to Guiria, having an insurrectionary officer on board. On arriving at Guiria, she remained under the control of the officer while Mr. Wilson went on shore, and was told that he would be required to return to Yaguaraparo that afternoon.

Mr. Wilson received no reward or payment for conveying the insurrectionary forces, and there seems no doubt that he acted under compulsion. He was not engaged in illicit traffic, the "Maria Teresa" having been cleared at the Venezuelan Consulate at Port of Spain on the 8th January.

While Mr. Wilson was at Guiria, the Venezuelan steam-ship "Miranda" entered that port, and, after compelling the "Maria Teresa" to heave-to by firing two shots over her, immediately dispatched her boat to that vessel to inquire the destination of the latter. The master, George Patterson, replied, "Yrapa," and was then ordered to proceed to Trinidad. He complied with these orders and sailed out of the port of Guiria, whereupon the "Miranda" again fired two shots at the "Maria Teresa," which once more heave-to. A boat came from the "Miranda" and took off the master and two sailors.

George Patterson was informed that the "Maria Teresa" would be burnt, and that he and the sailors would be imprisoned.

The Commander of the "Miranda" then sent some of his crew on board the "Maria Teresa," who took possession of all the property in the vessel, which was then set on fire and completely destroyed.

George Patterson was detained on the "Miranda" for some time, but when that vessel was off Point Pima, he and the two sailors were set adrift in the boat of the "Maria Teresa" with a piece of an oar.

They reached Guiniamá on the following day, 14th January, and then proceeded to Yrapa, where George Patterson was arrested by the Commander of the Government troops there on the 18th January. He was then bound with ropes, sent back to Guiria, which he reached on the 23rd, and detained on board the "Augusto" till the 30th, when he was set free, and put on shore at Rio Grande, whence he walked to Guiria, and obtained a passage from that port to Trinidad.

As the "Maria Teresa" had been seized by disaffected persons and was, undoubtedly, being used for unlawful purposes, against the will of the owner and master, the "Miranda" was perfectly justified in arresting her. There are, nevertheless, many points in the evidence which require elucidation. For what reason did the Commander of the "Miranda" cause the "Maria Teresa" to be boarded and a little later suffer her to proceed to Trinidad, shortly afterwards apparently changing his mind, and again sending a force to board her? No attempt at escape or resistance seems to have been made by the crew of the "Maria Teresa," yet that vessel was burnt, the property on board seized and her sailors arrested and placed in an open boat with

a broken oar. The unfortunate man Patterson was put under arrest on reaching Yrapa and detained for several days, but no mention is made of the reasons which induced the military authorities to keep him in close confinement; on the other hand, the owner of the "Maria Teresa" was in custody of the insurrectionary forces.

Whatever may have been the circumstances which justified the Commander of the "Miranda" in detaining the "Maria Teresa," he would appear to have acted with excessive and unnecessary violence and no arguments can possibly be put forward in support of the treatment to which the sailors of the "Maria Teresa" were subjected when they were set adrift in an open boat.

As the "Maria Teresa" was the property of a British subject, I have the honour to express the hope that your Excellency will be so good as to cause a searching inquiry to be instituted into the proceedings of the Commander of the "Miranda," and to beg that I may be furnished, at your Excellency's earliest convenience, with the results of this investigation.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

No. 12.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord,

Caracas, April 17, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches received from the Governor of Trinidad and of notes which I have addressed to the Venezuelan Government respecting the proceedings of the Commander of an unnamed Venezuelan guardacosta on the Island of Patos in the month of February last.

On the 26th of that month John Craig, a fisherman of Trinidad and a British subject, left that island on a fishing expedition in his boat the "Sea Horse." He proceeded to the Island of Patos, which he reached at 8 A.M. on the following day, and there he met another boat, the "Buena Fé," belonging to Simon Revera, a Venezuelan citizen.

At about 8.30 A.M. John Craig, having in the meanwhile landed and beached his boat, there sailed into the bay in which he had gone ashore a small Venezuelan guardacosta. The name of her Commander is given as Agapine, or Agropelle. This vessel carried a crew of eight men, and, of this number, three, armed with cutlasses and rifles, came on shore and began to beat Anthony Andrew and some of the companions of John Craig, who, however, was not struck by them. Simon Revera was one of those assaulted on this occasion. A man, whose name is stated to be Badian, ran away and was fired upon by order of the Commander of the guardacosta. He, however, escaped unhurt. The Venezuelan sailors then seized the "Sea Horse" and the "Buena Fé" and the stores which the boats contained, leaving John Craig, Simon Revera, and the other men on the island without food or water.

I have urged the Venezuelan Government to institute an immediate inquiry into the acts alleged to have been committed by the Commander of the guardacosta, who, according to the sworn declarations of the complainants, landed an armed force on the territory of a friendly Power, assaulted the subjects of that Power, as well as certain other persons, and seized their property, while they were peacefully engaged in their lawful avocations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Grant Duff.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, March 28, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, copies of a Petition and a Statement relative to the alleged seizure of a boat belonging to one John Craig by a Venezuelan guardacosta.

Copies of these documents have been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Petition of John Craig.

To his Excellency Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, &c.

The humble Petition of the Undersigned, of Port of Spain,

Most respectfully sheweth :

THAT your petitioner's grievance is of a serious representation of this day, under which lay before your Excellency for investigation.

That your petitioner is a fisherman of this island, and some time of the 27th February last I went to see after my fishpot on British waters, and during which time I have also went ashore on British soil, known as Patos or Goose Island, of the Colony of Trinidad, where your applicant was assaulted by General Agropelle, of Venezuelan water cruiser, who have maliciously ill-used your petitioner to the greatest extent by means of using firearms at your petitioner. I was then obliged to lay prostrated to escape from the danger in his cruel attempt. That your petitioner had otherwise severe beating by him, in which he have taken away the boat and clothing.

That your petitioner, in manner most comfortable, state your Excellency may minutely observe that the grievance done to your petitioner on the British soil, and as British subject crave your Excellency's protection in the matter grievance.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) JOHN CRAIG.

11, South Square, Port of Spain,
March 6, 1901.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Declaration of John Craig.

JOHN CRAIG sworn, saith :

I am a native of Saint Vincent but have been residing in Trinidad for the last fifteen years. Five years ago I entered into a contract to plant cocoa in Venezuela for one Pedro Caselle at Aricagua, and during that time visited Trinidad occasionally. Three months ago, however, on account of the revolution, I left my contract and came to Trinidad.

On Tuesday, the 26th ultimo, I left Trinidad on a fishing expedition in my boat called the "Sea Horse," and at about 8 A.M. on the 27th arrived at Patos, my destination, where I met another boat. About half-an-hour after, when I had landed and beached my boat, a small Venezuelan guardacosta, captained by one Agapine, sailed into the bay and came right up to the beach. She carried a crew of eight men all told, and of this number three, armed with cutlasses and rifles, jumped ashore and began to beat one Anthony Andrew who was with me and also some of the other men; they did not, however, beat me. One man, whom I know by name of "Badian," in making his escape was fired upon by order of Agapine, but was not hurt. They then took everything, including our boats and left us on the island without even food or water.

On Thursday, the 28th, at about 7 P.M., we saw a boat passing and hailed out, and they came and took two of us and brought us to Gasperee, whence I took passage in the Gulf steamer for Port of Spain. I paid for my ticket as I had 3s., in my pocket which had escaped the notice of the Venezuelans, as they did not search us.

The guardacosta was a pirogue (large fishing-boat) which had been taken away from M. Ducharme by the Government party.

I was told this by one "Compeer," who said he recognized the pirogue and knew that it had been seized by the Government.

I estimate my loss at 80 dollars.

Besides myself there were three other men fishing with me :—

Anthony Andrew, Gerald and Robert. I do not know their surnames; two of them are living in Trinidad and can be found by me if required.

(Signed) JOHN CRAIG.

Sworn to before me at the Harbour-master's Office, Port of Spain, this 7th day of March, A.D. 1901.

(Signed)

JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Inclosure 4 in No. 12.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Grant Duff.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, March 28, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, copy of a report, with inclosures, by the Harbour-master, on the subject of the alleged seizure of the boat "Buena Fe" by a Venezuelan guardacosta at Patos on the 26th February last.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has been furnished with copies of the above-mentioned documents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 12.

The Harbour-master to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

March 4, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter received this morning from one Simon Revera, late master of the boat "Buena Fé," which he states was seized by a Venezuelan guardacosta on the 26th ultimo at Patos Island; he also complains of ill-treatment from the crew of the guardacosta.

Simon Revera, being a Venezuelan (although he informs me he has resided in Trinidad for about three years) and his vessel being under the Venezuelan flag, I have advised him to make his complaint to the Venezuelan Consul, but seeing that the seeming outrage happened on British soil, I deem it necessary to report the matter for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

(Signed) J. B. SAUNDERS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 12.

Simon Revera to the Harbour-master, Port of Spain.

Sir,

[Undated.]

THIS is to inform you that I, Simon Revera, master of the boat "Buena Fe," on Tuesday, the 26th February, 1901, after duly cleared my boat legally for Venezuela, in my way going down I called at Patos as the tide was against me waiting for the next tide, to my great astonishment I heard the report of gun-shots, when I look I see that it was a boat coming to Patos, and the Venezuelan guardacosta, otherwise the Venezuelan Customs boat, firing at the boat. The boat arrived to where I was with the Venezuelan boat followed her to the spot, where the Venezuelan captain, one Crispino, began to fire at us on shore, and after they landed and began to ill-treat us by giving us planas with their cutlass, and they took away the boats, leaving us there without food nor water. We remain two days punishing like that. Fortunately for us that a boat called there at about 9 o'clock, and the captain was good enough to rescue us.

Trusting that this explanation will satisfy you, as that is all the details I can give and swear to, I remain, &c.,

(Signed) SIMON REVERA.

Inclosure 7 in No. 12.

Declaration of Simon Revera.

I, SIMON REVERA, of Carupano, Venezuela, now residing at No. 3, Duncan Street, Port of Spain, trader, do solemnly and sincerely declare that—

I am the owner and also captain of the boat "Buena Fe."

On Tuesday, the 26th February, 1901, I left Trinidad for Yrapa, and on my way to that port stopped at Patos on account of the wind failing.

Whilst there I heard the report of rifles, and went to find out the cause. I saw a small boat coming towards the island pursued and being fired upon by a Venezuelan guardacosta.

The occupants of the boat reached the shore first and landed, the guardacosta still firing upon them. The crews of the two boats, that is to say, the one just arrived and mine, ran away, but their captain, one Craig, and myself stood our ground, knowing that we were on British territory. Three men, including the captain, one Agapine, landed from the guardacosta, and without telling us anything, commenced to beat us. They then took away our boats and left us on the island without any food or water.

I lost 55 dollars in cash, my boat, valued at 75 dollars, and other stores valued at 5 dollars.

Two days after a boat passed and took us to Gasparee, whence we took passage to Port of Spain in the Gulf steamer.

Whilst on the island we were compelled to live on shrubs.

I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and according to "The Statutory Declarations Ordinance, 1879," and I am aware that if there is any statement in this declaration which is false, in fact, which I know or believe to be false, or do not believe to be true, that I am liable to fine and imprisonment.

(Signed) SIMON REVERA, his X mark.

Witness:

(Signed) W. J. KIRCALDIE.

Read over, interpreted, and explained to the within-named Simon Revera in the Spanish language, and he appeared to understand the same.

(Signed) FRED. GEO. REDHEAD.

Declared at the Harbour-master's Office, Port of Spain, this 8th day of March, 1901.

Before me,

(Signed) JAMES B. SAUNDERS,
Harbour-master and J.P.

Inclosure 8 in No. 12.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Cardas, April 9, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice the following circumstances, which I venture to think call for careful investigation:—

On the 26th February last John Craig, a fisherman of Trinidad and a British subject, left that island on a fishing expedition in his boat the "Sea Horse." He proceeded to the Island of Patos, which he reached at 8 A.M. on the following day, and there he met another boat. At about 8.30 A.M., John Craig having in the interval landed and beached his boat, there sailed into the bay in which he had gone ashore a small Venezuelan guardacosta. The name of her Commander is given as Agapine, or Agropelle. This vessel carried a crew of eight men, and of this number three, armed with cutlasses and rifles, came on shore and began to beat Anthony Andrew and some of the other companions of John Craig, who, however, was himself not beaten. One man, whose name is stated to be Badian, ran away, and was fired upon by order of the Commander of the guardacosta. He, however, escaped unhurt. The Venezuelan sailors then seized the boats and their contents, and left John Craig and the other men on the island without food or water.

Happily, on the 28th February, they hailed a boat which was passing, and John Craig was thus enabled to return to Port of Spain.

The above is the substance of John Craig's sworn evidence.

The acts alleged to have been committed by the Commander of the guardacosta—the name of which is not given, but which is said to be a pirogue taken by the troops of the Venezuelan Government from M. Ducharme, one of the leaders in the late insurrection on the Gulf of Paria—in landing an armed force on the territory of a friendly Power, and in assaulting the persons and seizing the property of subjects of that Power, while peacefully engaged in their lawful avocations, would appear to demand the most searching investigation. I have accordingly the honour to express the hope that your Excellency will be so good as to cause an immediate inquiry to be instituted into the proceedings of the vessel in question.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 9 in No. 12.

Mr. Grant Duff to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Cardcas, April 10, 1901.

IN my note of yesterday's date, respecting the case of John Craig, I had the honour to inform your Excellency that the complainant stated that on arriving at Patos he met with another boat at that island. The boat in question was called the "Buena Fé" and was owned by Simon Revera, a Venezuelan citizen, but at present a resident of Port of Spain, who on the 8th ultimo gave evidence respecting the incident before the Harbour-master of Port of Spain.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this man's affidavit, which shows that an armed force landed on Patos from an unnamed Venezuelan guardacosta, that the members of this force assaulted the witness, that he lost 55 dollars in cash and his boat and the stores which it contained, and that he was left on the island without food and water.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

No. 13.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord,

Cardcas, April 19, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of a note in which the Venezuelan Government inform me that the declaration of Mrs. Elvelina Jones respecting her detention on board the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" has been referred to the Ministries of the Interior, of Finance, and of War and Marine, in connection with the inquiry which is being held with regard to the proceedings of the Commander of the vessel in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Grant Duff.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Cardcas, April 17, 1901.

THE matter mentioned in your note of the 9th instant, and treated of in the declaration of Elvelina Jones, of which a copy has been received, would seem to be included in the facts alleged by the other British subjects in their complaint against the Captain of the "Augusto," and to which you have referred in the two preceding notes which I had the honour to answer under date of the 27th March, as in the account therein contained

figures Mrs. Jones, the same, no doubt, who subscribes the declaration now transmitted by you. This Department, therefore, thinks it expedient to defer the consideration of this new step until the Reports of the Departments of the Interior, Finance, and War and Marine on the investigations made by them into the acts attributed to the Captain of the "Augusto" have been received.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

No. 14.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord,

Caracas, April 19, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note in which the Venezuelan Government inform me that the Ministries of the Interior, of War and Marine, and of Finance have been requested to inquire into the circumstances under which the "Maria Teresa" was burnt by the Venezuelan man-of-war "Miranda."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Grant Duff.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Caracas, April 17, 1901.

THE elaborate account given in your note of the 9th instant and in the three documents thereto annexed of the circumstances which attended the destruction of the sloop "Maria Teresa" leads to a consideration of the matter from a point of view in which due regard must be paid to the condition of rebellion in which the vessel was at the time and to the fact that she was sailing under the Venezuelan flag. At first sight, therefore, and even after the most careful reflection, the matter seems to offer an aspect which completely removes it from any field of examination other than that which arises from international law in its relations to municipal law, and, consequently, this Department thinks it absolutely necessary to limit itself to sending copies of your note to the Departments of the Interior, of War and Marine, and of Finance, in order that each of those Ministries may call for and obtain such a report as will enable me to determine whether the action of the "Miranda" was characterized by violence, or was imposed by the necessities of the case, and therefore justifiable.

As this method of procedure is substantially the same indicated by you in your courteous note to which I refer, I have great pleasure in informing you thereof, and at the same time I have, &c.

(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

No. 15.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord,

Caracas, April 19, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of a note in which the Venezuelan Government inform me that the Ministries of Finance and of the Interior have been requested to investigate the circumstances under which John Craig and Simon Revera were deprived of their boats "Sea Horse" and "Buena Fé" by armed men, who landed on the Island of Patos from an unnamed Venezuelan guardacosta in the month of February last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Grant Duff.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Caracas, April 17, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to refer to your two communications relating to the complaint of the fisherman John Craig, for abuses committed against him by the Captain of the Venezuelan guardacosta towards the end of February last. I have already communicated to the Departments of Finance and the Interior the account given by you in the first of the two notes, in order that they should institute inquiries into the nature of the acts.

As the second note, received afterwards, refers to a declaration of Simon Revera, in which the same circumstances alleged by Craig are mentioned, it will also be affected by the inquiries which are being made.

With regard to the opinion expressed by you that the disembarkation of the forces of the guardacosta was effected on the territory of a friendly Power (that of the Island of Patos), I must again call your attention to the circumstances that Venezuela considers that territory to belong to her on the grounds adduced in the correspondence, of which I gave a summary in my note of the 13th instant.

Until I am in a position to inform you of the results of the investigation ordered to be made into Craig's complaints, I have, &c.,

(Signed)

EDUARDO BLANCO.

No. 16.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 3.)

My Lord,

Caracas, June 13, 1901.

WITH reference to Mr. Grant Duff's despatch of the 19th April last I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the reply of the Venezuelan Government to Mr. Grant Duff's representation on the subject of the confiscation of a boat belonging to John Craig and the ill-treatment of the crew by a Venezuelan officer.

Even from the account of the official himself, there seems to have been a serious act of arbitrary injustice, and I have the honour to inclose also a copy of my note to the Venezuelan Government, in which I point this out, and request that a further inquiry should be made into his conduct.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, June 8, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the certified copy of the information supplied to his Excellency the Minister of Finance by the custom-house at Guiria with reference to the complaint made by Mr. John Craig, sent to this Department by Mr. Grant Duff on the 9th and 10th April last.

In the above account your Excellency will find related the actual course pursued by the revenue-cutter to which the complainant attributed the deeds and actions on which your honourable Legation bases its inquiry. From this it will be seen that it was a smuggling operation, luckily stopped by the Venezuelan officer in the fulfilment of his duty.

Accept, &c.

(Signed)

EDUARDO BLANCO.

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA

(Customs of Guiria.)

(Translation.)

Minister of Finance,

Guiria, May 8, 1901.

In fulfilment of the instructions contained in your note of the 13th April last, Directory of Customs, No. 546, I perform my duty in sending you the particulars which I have collected with reference to the occurrences connected with the British subject, John Craig.

Colonel Agripino Lairer informs this custom-house that, in coasting along the eastern shores of the jurisdiction of this customs in a boat, by the orders of General Mendes, Expeditionary Chief of the Government, being on shore at Caraquito, he saw a boat approaching the land; suspecting that it might be a smuggling-vessel, he went out in the boat under his command to follow it until he could give chase not without the smuggling-vessel making attempts to fly, seeking Patos; that the boat was manned by two Englishmen, and the master was from Margarita, and that they were coming from Trinidad to get cocoa on the Venezuelan coasts, which was shown by the fact of their having twenty-five sacks of raw cocoa* on board; that the boat had no legal permit; and when he declared to the crew of the smuggling-vessel that he was taking them in this direction, they demanded to be left on Patos, which was done, without their being ill-treated either by word or deed.

This information has been given by the above-mentioned Lairer in the office under my charge.

God and federation.

(Signed)

RAFAEL JOSÉ ARTEAGA.

This is a true copy.

The Director,

(Signed) MANUEL FOMBONA PALACIO.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
Directory of Foreign Public Laws,
Caracas, June 8, 1901.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, June 10, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 8th instant forwarding the information supplied to his Excellency the Minister of Finance by the Custom-house at Guiria with reference to the complaint made by Mr. John Craig of the seizure of his boat and of his own ill-treatment by a Venezuelan official on the British island of Patos.

Your Excellency concludes that this Report shows that the boat was engaged in smuggling, but I fail to see anything in it which justifies that assumption. It is the bare statement of the man who is himself accused of the outrage, a statement which is entirely unsupported, and which is absolutely contradicted by the sworn statement of Mr. John Craig; but even if it were not so contradicted, in the statement of Colonel Lairer itself, there would not seem to be anything to justify the accusation of smuggling and the consequent confiscation of the boat. It is moreover integrally untrustworthy as it contradicts itself.

Colonel Lairer says that when he was on shore at Caraquito he saw a boat coming "towards the land" and suspected it to be a smuggler; he gave chase and seized it when the crew said that they were coming from Trinidad to get cocoa from the Venezuelan coast which was proved by there being twenty-five sacks of raw cocoa* on board.

Hera Colonel Agripino Lairer's account confirms that of the crew. He says "they were going towards the land"—i.e., the mainland; they say, according to him, that they were going from Trinidad to get cocoa from Venezuela. Surely if they were smuggling cocoa from Venezuela the boat ought to have been going back from the Venezuelan

* See No. 17.

coast, not towards it. This appears to be throughout a suspiciously confused statement.

As to there being no legal permit, I would ask what Venezuelan permit could an English fishing-boat at an island which has at least been considered to be English for the last century be expected to be provided with?

Again Colonel Agripino Lairer says that the master, John Craig, was a native of Margarita, i.e., a Venezuelan. John Craig, himself, swears in his affidavit of the 7th March of this year that he is a native of St. Vincent, resident in Trinidad during the last fifteen years. It is in the capacity of a British subject that he has appealed to the Governor of Trinidad, and it is as a British subject that Mr. Grant Duff put this request before your Excellency. There can be no difficulty in settling this point; in the meanwhile I would suggest that John Craig is an English and not a Venezuelan name.

Under all these circumstances I would invite your Excellency to take steps to cause a further strict inquiry to be made into the conduct of this official in this matter, with the view to his punishment and to the indemnification of John Craig for his injury and loss.

It is clear that the seizure was made on the British Island of Patos, but as that question is being treated separately, I will not enter into it here.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

P.S.—I see that the Collector of Customs at Guiria in his Report to the Minister of Finance speaks of the man whom Colonel Agripino Lairer calls a Margaritanian as the "British subject, John Craig," thus contradicting his subordinate's statement in the very despatch in which he forwards it.

W. H. D. H.

No. 17.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 18.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, June 22, 1901.

IN my despatch of the 13th instant I had the honour of inclosing a translation of a note from the Venezuelan Government with reference to the seizure of John Craig's boat on the Island of Patos and a copy of my reply to that note.

In that reply I had translated "sacos de crudo nuevo" as "sacks of raw cocoa." I was much puzzled at the expression "de crudo," the more so that it was badly written and I was not quite sure of the word. However, the dictionary gave one of the meanings of "crudo" as "unripe fruit," and Mr. Acting Consul Andral, who has been nearly fifty years in the country and who is a finished Spanish scholar, whom I asked what it meant, stated to me that it was bad Spanish, but that it could only mean sacks of raw cocoa.

When, however, I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs at his reception on the 18th instant, he told me that I had made a mistranslation, as "crudo" was the local technical name of the rough stuff which is used for making sacks.

His Excellency added that he had replied to my note, pointing this out in a note which was on its way, and seemed to think that this completely disposed of the whole of my argument that Colonel Agripino Lairer stood self-convicted of an unjustifiable act of violence.

I, however, pointed out to his Excellency that far from this being the case, the fact that there was no cocoa on board added to the unjustifiable nature of the Venezuelan official's conduct; that according to his own account even, he had confiscated a boat on totally insufficient grounds, firstly, because it was going in the direction of Venezuela, and secondly, because it had some sacks on board.

I have waited for four days for the note which his Excellency told me was on its way, and as this has not arrived, I have embodied that argument in another note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, June 21, 1901.

IN our conversation on the 18th instant with reference to the seizure on the Island of Patos of John Craig's boat by a Venezuelan official, you were good enough to point out to me that my translation of "veinte y cinco sacos de crudo nuevos" by "twenty-five sacks of raw cocoa" was incorrect, that the word "crudo" did not apply to the cocoa but was a local, technical name of the stuff of which the sacks were made.

I much regret this mistake, the more so that the conduct of Colonel Agripino Lairet would appear, in view of the correct translation "twenty-five new sacks of coarse linen or canvas," still more outrageous, according to his own account, than it would have been had it been twenty-five sacks of cocoa, in the latter case, although the boat, according to his account, had not landed in Venezuela, the presence of cocoa on board, though of course it might have been produced in Trinidad, might perhaps just possibly have given rise to some suspicion, though even then there was no proof of smuggling. But what can be thought of Colonel Agripino Lairet's conduct when, according to his own account, he confiscates violently an English boat without having absolutely any proof or even reasonable suspicion of smuggling, simply because she was going in the direction of Venezuela, and when seized on Patos she had twenty-five empty sacks on board? It is clear from Colonel Agripino Lairet's account that John Craig's boat had not touched Venezuelan land and had not smuggled; he merely suspects that it might be going to smuggle, and as a responsible Venezuelan official considers himself justified in committing the act of violence to which he himself confesses. I say nothing here about his statement being absolutely contradicted by the affidavit of John Craig; his own statement is sufficient to show that, to use no other words, he grossly exceeded his duty.

I therefore confidently hope that the Venezuelan Government will take immediate steps to cause John Craig's boat to be restored to him, and I will leave to your Excellency's appreciation the punishment that should be accorded to an official who brings discredit on his Government by such an unjustifiable act of violence as Colonel Agripino Lairet has himself confessed to.

I may mention that this Agripino Lairet, who is described as enjoying the high rank of "Colonel" in the Report of the Director of Customs of Guiria, drops his military rank and appears as a peaceful tradesman ("comerciante") in that of the Judge of the "Distrito Marino," in another case of alleged violence in which he is implicated against Mr. Kelly, another British subject, and that he is moreover so ignorant as to be described by the Judge as unable even to sign his name. I would venture with the greatest deference to submit that if ignorant and illiterate men of this description, whose conception of international responsibility must be of the vaguest, are intrusted with important and delicate functions, the exercise of which requires the greatest prudence, regrettable occurrences like that of the seizure of John Craig's boat under the circumstances which are shown by Mr. or Colonel Agripino Lairet's own avowal to have been quite unjustifiable, might almost be expected.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 18.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

Caracas, July 24, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit further correspondence respecting the burning of the "Maria Teresa" by a Venezuelan gun-boat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Mr. Haggard to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

Sir,

Caracas, June 10, 1901.

ON the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 28th March, with reference to the burning of the sloop "Maria Teresa" by a Venezuelan gun-boat off Guiria, the property of a British subject but flying the Venezuelan flag, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires addressed a note to the Venezuelan Government, in which the incidents reported in your Excellency's despatch were brought to their notice. They were, at the same time, urged to cause an inquiry to be instituted into the proceedings of the "Miranda," the ship which burnt the "Maria Teresa," and to furnish His Majesty's Legation with the result of that investigation. Those results are shown in the two notes from the Venezuelan Government, with their inclosures, of which I have the honour to forward copies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Caracas, May 25, 1901.

IN the reply which this Department sent to the Honourable Grant Duff's note of the 9th April referring to the capture and destruction of the sloop "Maria Teresa" in Venezuelan waters in the beginning of January last, I informed him that it had been decided to send to the Offices for Interior Affairs, Finance, War, and Marine, a copy of the report forwarded by the Legation so that each Department might make the necessary inquiry from which it would be possible to determine whether there was question of some act of violence or some justifiable measure. The first outcome of this step was the evidence given by the Commander of the ship of war which captured the sloop and whose duty it was to be better acquainted with the circumstances of the case than any one else. From the information obtained from this officer, now retired from the service by the Department for War and Marine, a certified copy of which I inclose, your Excellency will perceive the conditions of the vessel destroyed, the operations in which it was engaged, and the treatment meted out to her crew by the Venezuelan Commander notwithstanding their flagrant culpability.

I shall have much pleasure in forwarding any further information relating to her master to your Excellency, and, in the meanwhile, I have the honour to inclose to you the protests, &c.

(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

(Translation.)

Caracas, May 22, 1901.

Citizen-General and Minister for War and Marine.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note, in which you ask me for detailed information concerning events which occurred between the men of the national gun-boat "Miranda" when I was in command of the said gun-boat. In accordance therewith I append the following details:—

On the 20th December last I received orders through the Citizen-Administrator of the Customs of La Guayra, from the Citizen-General Head of the Executive, to place the "Miranda" at the service of General Santiago Briscena, then Provincial President of the State of Sucre. I weighed anchor, therefore, and, on our arrival at Cumaná, I communicated my orders to General Briscena.

Within a day or two after I received a note from the General Secretary of the State in which I was told that, by General Briscena's orders, I should place my services at the disposal of General Vicente Rosales, who had the necessary instructions; that the latter would embark at once, which he did, accompanied by twenty armed men. Thenceforward we began to cruise along the whole length of the coast of Paria and in the gulf of that name. Then broke out the chimerical revolutionary attempt directed by Pedro Julian Acosta, and the "Miranda" continued operations in the aforesaid State.

About the 11th or 12th January last we were cruising opposite the harbour of Guiria, then in the power of the rebel forces, and, having drawn near to the shore, we noticed a sloop putting out to sea with great haste. By General Rosales' orders we started in pursuit of her; but the sloop, not obeying the signal to stop, it was necessary to fire one or two blank shots to make her lie to, as she afterwards did. She turned out to be the "Maria Teresa." The only two men on board of her informed us that they had put into Guiria by order of the rebel Chief; that he was then at Yrapa, and that they, on seeing the steamer, endeavoured to flee. General Rosales then ordered them to sail to Trinidad, setting them at liberty. We were already leaving the spot when we saw that the "Maria Teresa," instead of sailing for Trinidad, was making for the land as fast as she could, with her bow pointed to Yrapa. This being exactly opposed to the orders she had received, and exceedingly suspicious at such a time, we, therefore, again gave her chase and captured her. Not being able to tow her into any port, because by so doing we should be abandoning the cruise, General Rosales resolved to destroy the sloop, as being one of the vessels used by the revolutionists. The boat was in ballast, and nothing whatever of her contents was touched. The two men who comprised her crew were transferred to the "Miranda" without ill-treatment of any kind whatever. After having destroyed the sloop, General Rosales ordered them to be taken in his own boat, and left in the neighbourhood of Yrapa within about 2 miles from the village.

No document was found on board the "Maria Teresa" which might prove the ownership of the vessel. The statement of the men and their double attempt at flight proved their complicity with the rebellion. It is by no means true that they were abandoned to the waves in a wretched boat with a piece of oar. The boat was in good condition and furnished with the necessary implements for safely reaching the village which, being in a state of revolt, we could not approach any nearer.

These statements can be confirmed by citizens Roman Delgado Chalbend, second in command of the "Miranda," Lucas F. Lopez, chief gunner, and Antonio Mijeres Palon and Carlos Cosimi, officers of the said ship.

I have the honour thus to reply to your note and subscribe myself yours, &c.

(Signed) LEOPOLDO PELLISER.

This is a true copy :

Board of Marine Statistics and Accounts,
(Signed) M. V. CASTRO ZAVALA.
Ministry for War and Marine,
Cardcas, May 23, 1901.

This is a copy :

The Director,
(Signed) MANUEL FOMBONA PALACIO.
Board of International Law,
Cardcas, May 24, 1901.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Cardcas, June 8, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency further information respecting the circumstances affecting the capture and destruction of the sloop "Maria Teresa."

What I sent your honourable Legation on the 25th May was obtained from the captain of the ship of war which captured the sloop; what I now herewith inclose, a certified copy of, emanates from the Customs of Guiria.

Your Excellency will thereby be enabled further to ascertain the nature of the deed, and appreciate the clear proofs of the guilt of the sloop and her crew, as well as other details, the knowledge of which is necessary in order to fix the blame in the right quarter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA.

(Customs of Guiria.)

(Translation.)

Citizen Minister for Finance,

Guiria, May 6, 1901.

This Administration has received the note of your Ministry of the 22nd ultimo, in which is inclosed that of the 17th of the same month, which the Ministry for Foreign Affairs addressed to your Office on the circumstances relating to the sloop "Maria Teresa," and, in accordance with the aforesaid despatch, I have the honour to lay before you the following information which I have obtained in connection with the circumstances mentioned in the previously-inclosed despatch.

The sloop "Maria Teresa" passed through this port on the 31st December last on her way from Yrapa with a cargo of fruit for Trinidad, having on board no sailing papers whatever, and returned to this port laden with contraband goods. The individual who acted as captain having, it appears, placed himself at the service of the rebels in Trinidad whence he brought fire-arms and ammunition for the rebel forces which were to be found here under the command of Pedro Ducharme. From this place he sailed for Yrapa. It cannot be said that the captain was pressed into the service of the revolutionists, inasmuch as he had enlisted in the service while in Trinidad. At any rate, he had brought fire-arms; and if he did not claim any remuneration, it was because the rebels had authorized him to bring contraband goods.

The shots fired by the "Miranda" were prompted by the fact that the rebel forces on land had opened fire on her, and by the desire to capture the "Maria Teresa," no doubt, because she was known to be engaged in clandestine trade and to be the bearer of implements of war, thus directly opposing the Government. Further, if her captain were not in league with the revolution, he would not have traded during that period between this port and Trinidad, and thus would have followed the example of many masters and captains of vessels who preferred to remain at Trinidad until the Government had resumed control of the district.

Mr. George Patterson was arrested for his open hostility to the Government, for it is a matter of public knowledge that not only he but many other British subjects were seen bearing arms in the service of the rebels; and it is also certain that many others accompanied Pedro Ducharme from Trinidad on his way to attack this place.

Mr. Wilson was not in the custody of the rebels because, as has been said, he was acting in concert with and in the service of the revolution. Respecting his ownership of the "Maria Teresa," he sent to this office an authorized copy of the ship's warrant, whereby it was seen that it belonged to Lena Wilson.

Having thus given the information required by your despatch, I am—God and Federation.

(Signed) RAPHAEL JOSÉ ORTEAGA.

This is a copy :

The Director,

(Signed) MANUEL FOMBONA PALACIO.
Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
Board of International Law,
Caracas, June 8, 1901.

No. 19.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1901.

I COMMUNICATED to the Colonial Office the reports received relative to the burning of the sloop "Maria Teresa" by the Venezuelan man-of-war "Miranda."

In view of the discrepancies between the version of the incident given by the Venezuelan Government and that sent home by Mr. Grant Duff, Mr. Secretary Chamberlain suggests that further evidence should be obtained with a view to clear up the facts connected with the case; and I have to request you to endeavour to procure any such evidence which may be available. The Governor of Trinidad has been instructed to inquire as to the statements that the "Maria Teresa" brought arms and ammunition from Trinidad.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 20.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, September 10, 1901.

IN my despatches of the 13th and 22nd June respectively I had the honour of forwarding to your Lordship my correspondence with the Venezuelan Government in continuation of that of His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires with reference to the confiscation of a boat belonging to a British subject named John Craig by officials of the Venezuelan Government on the British Island of Patos.

Your Lordship will have seen from this correspondence, firstly :—

That these officials treated Patos as their own territory, and have been supported by the Central Government in so doing.

That the latter offer no redress for an act which, even according to their own account, and if their assumed possession of the island be allowed, was one of unjustifiable violence.

The further note from the Venezuelan Government, which is the Minister for Foreign Affairs' fresh explanation, promised me in our conversation on the 18th June, throws no new light on the subject; it merely gives as Agripino Lairet's amplification of his former Report that he was in search of military stores which the enemy were supposed to be hiding on the coast, when he caught sight of John Craig's boat. This is put by the Minister for Foreign Affairs as "suspicion of complicity in the revolution." It is again stated that the master was not John Craig, but a Margaritanian whose name they now give as Simon (*alias* El Barrigon).

Taking then the Venezuelan account alone, the boat is captured on the Island of Patos, on suspicion first of all of being a smuggler—the only ground for this suspicion being that it had some empty sacks on board—but she is, nevertheless, confiscated.

This accusation is now amended by the further statement that she was suspected of landing arms, but the Venezuelan statement clearly proves that she never touched the coast, and that she therefore could not have landed any arms, while it is not stated that when she was taken after being chased to Patos she had arms in her, and it is not even hinted by the Venezuelan authorities that she had thrown them overboard or hidden them. It may therefore be assumed that she had none, and this disposes of that suspicion.

Then comes the question of her papers. In this further note the Venezuelan Government assert that the crew had no documents "enabling them to prove their innocence."

What documents could they have that could do this?

In former notes it has been alleged that they had no papers, but what papers do they mean?

Does a Trinidad fishing-boat, sailing near the coast of that island, require English papers, or do not the Venezuelan Government wish to convey that—English or Venezuelan—it should have had a Venezuelan permit at their Island of Patos?

Finally, however, after having made it distinctly evident, even according to their own version of the story (which, it must be remembered, is entirely at variance with John Craig's) that there was nothing to justify the seizure of the vessel, they assert that nothing else save the confiscation was possible with reference to a boat found "under such circumstances of guilt."

They then go on to say that Article 35 of the Venezuelan Fiscal Code justifies this action, as it orders preventive officers to take any ship "which may have made a voyage from abroad to a point on the coast where there is no custom-house," but the Venezuelan statements themselves show distinctly that the boat did not do this, for it never touched the Venezuelan shore. What they do say is that it was in Venezuelan waters.

I have not troubled your Lordship with the last part of the Venezuelan note, as it is only a voluminous dissertation on the status of Agripino Lairet.

I have, for the present at all events, contented myself with acknowledging the receipt of this note, and with stating that I have forwarded it for the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, August 31, 1901.

I WAS keeping at hand on the table of my office your Excellency's two notes of the 10th and 21st June last, in hopes of fresh information which, in accordance with my promise given in our conversation on the 18th of that month, I had lost no time in requesting from the Ministry of Finance with reference to the circumstances connected with the detention of John Craig's boat by a Venezuelan coast-guard ship during the days following on the disturbance of public order on the east coast of the Republic. The doubts which your Excellency had presented in the first of the notes mentioned were practically cleared up in the second, since the mere fact of your Excellency having through an accidental error of translation misinterpreted the sentence relating to the sacks found on board, shows that you could not believe the suspicions of the coast-guard vessel to be the real ground on which the boat was seized.

A new declaration by Lairer, just received, and of which I forward an authorized copy, widens the circumstances of the case and proves that, besides the suspicion of contraband, there was attached to the boat that of complicity in the revolution, since it was surprised near the coast where the insurgents were hiding arms.

The act of flight, in avoiding the vigilance of the coast-guard ship was an additional proof that the crew had no documents enabling them to prove their innocence. He who had the position of master (patron) was not Craig, the self-named owner (dueño) of the boat, but an inhabitant of Margarita of a very different name; and since Lairer was obeying an order of a military character, in time of war and on coasts that had been in rebellion, the results would have been incomprehensible, and even opposed to the exigencies of public order if he had proceeded in any other way with respect to a boat found under such circumstances of guilt.

Even setting aside the reasons of military obedience which explain the action, what is laid down by Article 29 of Law 35 of the Venezuelan Fiscal Code would be sufficient to justify it. There, amongst other enactments, it orders the preventive officers to take any ship which may have made a voyage from abroad to a point on the coast where there is no custom-house &c.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA.

(Maritime Customs of Guiria.)

(Translation.)

Guiria, July 18, 1901.

CITIZEN Agripino Lairer will appear before a Judge at this custom-house to-morrow at 9 o'clock to give information on matters which concern him.

He shall sign in proof of his having been summoned.

(Signed)

G. VILLASMIL.

Summoned, for Agripino Lairer, F. Latouche.

A former declaration, which precedes, was presented to this Department on the same date by the citizen, Colonel Agripino Lairer, who, being sworn in the legal form, declared that he was, as has been said, a neighbour of this Municipality, single, of a merchant's profession, and capable of giving witness, and being told the cause of his summons, and having read the note from the Ministry of Finance, where he transcribes that of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and explains his motive, he declared:—

That being stationed in the place known as Rio Grande, as second in command of some Government forces, he went thence on a scouting expedition, by order of the officer in command, Colonel Rueda, and thence towards the shores of Barlovento in search of military stores which the enemy was hiding on the coasts mentioned. Being in Cariquito in the Hacienda of the brothers Ducharme, a sentinel told me that a vessel was crossing from the shore of Trinidad towards ours, on account of which I gave orders to the sentinel not to do anything with the object of seeing what the vessel would do. When she had reached Venezuelan waters I went out in its pursuit, giving it chase in front of the Hacienda of Señor Gerónimo Solis, called "Tacua"; this vessel had no legal papers, and was under the command of an individual, a native of Margarita, called Simón (*alias* El

Barrigon), and had on board twenty-five unused sacks which the captain and master mentioned showed me, having bought them in Trinidad whence he was coming. On account of all of which, and in obedience to superior orders, I took it and brought it to Cariaquito where were the rest of the forces under my command. Thence I embarked all my forces and returned to Rio Grande, where my Commanding Officer was, to whom I gave an account of all that had passed, and handed over to him the vessel in question."

Having read this, he said that it was correct, and he signs.
At Agripino Lairet's request because he was unable to sign.

(Signed) A. GUEVARA.

The Administrator,
(Signed) G. VILLASMIL.

A true copy.
The Director,
(Signed) MANUEL FOMBONA PALACIO.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
Direction of Foreign Public Right,
Caracas, August 30, 1901.

No. 21.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, September 14, 1901.

IN your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo you instruct me to procure any further evidence which may be available, with a view to clear up the facts connected with the burning of the sloop "Maria Teresa" by the Venezuelan man-of-war "Miranda."

The only manner in which this is at all possible, is by addressing a further note to the Venezuelan Government on the subject, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of that which I have consequently written to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is, however, unhappily hardly to be expected that this will have much, if any, result in helping to clear up the facts connected with the case, but I have had to adopt this means as there is no other available, and I will forward to your Lordship his Excellency's reply when I receive it.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Mr Haggard to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, September 13, 1901.

HIS Majesty's Government have had before them the views of that of Venezuela with reference to the burning off Guiria on the 13th January last of the sloop "Maria Teresa," the property of a British subject named Wilson, and the imprisonment and ill-treatment of her master, Mr. Patterson, and her crew.

In view of the discrepancies between the versions of the incident given by the Venezuelan Government in your Excellency's notes of the 25th May and the 8th June on this subject and that forwarded to the Marquess of Lansdowne, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, I am instructed to procure further evidence with a view to clearing up the facts connected with this case. I should therefore be much obliged if your Excellency would cause further inquiry to be made into this matter, and I would at the same time request your Excellency to furnish me with some confirmation of the statement contained in the note to your Excellency from the Minister of Customs of the 6th May, inclosed in your Excellency's note of the 8th June, that "Mr. Patterson had placed himself at the disposition of the rebels in Trinidad," in support of which no evidence of any kind is adduced by his Excellency.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 22.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 7.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, October 9, 1901.

IN my despatch of the 14th ultimo I ventured to express the fear that a fresh inquiry which, as the only possible means of carrying out your Lordship's instructions, I had addressed to the Venezuelan Government with reference to the facts connected with the burning of the "Maria Teresa" would not be very fruitful of results; and as your Lordship will see by the inclosed reply of the Venezuelan Government to my inquiry, my fears have been justified, for they politely decline to make any further inquiry.

They however do enter again into the matter, and seem to attempt to explain the discrepancies in the evidence, with the result that the "confusion is worse confounded;" for instance, they state that the declarations of Messrs. Wilson and Patterson as to the property of the boat are "in flat contradiction to the boat's register," whereas the Commander of the "Miranda" who burnt the "Maria Teresa" affirms in his report to the Minister of War and Marine, inclosed in the note of the Venezuelan Government of the 25th May, that "on board the 'Maria Teresa' there was found no document proving to whom the boat belonged," and the Inspector of Customs at Guiria, in his report to the Minister of Finance, inclosed in Dr. Blanco's note of the 8th June, goes further and asserts that the "Maria Teresa" was unprovided with "commission, register or roll," so, according to his Excellency, the declarations of Messrs. Patterson and Wilson are in flat contradiction to a document which, according to the officers on whose statements are based the representations of the Venezuelan Government, had no existence.

The proof offered by the Venezuelan Government of the statement that Mr. Patterson "had placed himself at the disposition of the rebels in Trinidad" is now furnished in the further statement "that the sloop was bound to places known to be then occupied by revolutionary bands." This would seem to be *nil ad rem*.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, September 30, 1901.

THIS Department has given its careful attention to your Excellency's polite note of the 13th instant, in which you ask for further information concerning events which happened last January connected with the sloop "Maria Teresa." The motive of this new request is the discrepancies which exist between the affirmations or declarations of the military and fiscal authorities of Venezuela and those which had been sent to His Majesty's honourable Legation. The one which appears to have chiefly attracted notice is that which refers to the connivance of Mr. Patterson with the refugee rebels in Trinidad. A new investigation is desired on this point.

With reference to your Excellency's polite note, I must state, with the greatest deference, the fact that the declarations which are not held by the Legation or by His Majesty's Government as convincing come from authorities who, when they took over their employment, swore to fulfil their duties faithfully; and I ought also to mention that the other declarations come from two private individuals—Mr. Wilson and the above-mentioned Mr. Patterson—who are represented as affirming a point (that of the property of the boat), which is in flat contradiction to the boat's register. Moreover, in this one must consider the complete agreement as regards the principal points between Patterson's confessions and the information supplied by the Commander of the "Miranda." The former, in effect, allows that they let him depart for Trinidad, and that it was after his departure that they proceeded definitely against the boat. This Commander Pellicer also stated, and he added that this second step had been taken owing to the further action of the boat, which, in place of directing its course to Trinidad, again went towards the revolutionary coast. It would be useless to hope that Mr. Patterson should confess to the latter, but the agreement as to the circumstances which attended the first part of the occurrence is a guarantee of veracity as regards the subsequent parts.

The assertion of the Administrator of the Customs at Guiria, which appears to

have especially attracted the attention of your Excellency's Government, finds its best confirmation in the fact of the sloop having weighed anchor bound to places known to be then occupied by revolutionary bands.

I beg of your Excellency to be good enough to reconsider the matter in the right light, and to put before His Majesty's Government the foregoing facts, in which they will no doubt find another proof that the declarations with respect to the event well explain the case without making any further proceedings necessary.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, October 5, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 30th ultimo, stating that the Venezuelan Government see no reason for making a fresh inquiry into the circumstances connected with the burning of the "Maria Teresa."

I am losing no time in forwarding this note to His Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 23.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord,

Caracas, October 15, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a note from the Venezuelan Government, disclaiming any intention of conveying, in previous correspondence, any imputation against the authorities of Trinidad in connection with facilities stated by the Venezuelan Government to be afforded in that island towards revolutionary designs directed against Venezuela.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of my reply to this note, and to state that I am forwarding this correspondence to the Governor of Trinidad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Señor Blanco to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, October 7, 1901.

I READ to the President your Excellency's note of the 4th, and received instructions from him not only to make known to you, as I do, his grateful thanks for the transmission of the opinions contained in my note of the 1st, but also in order to explain the point which your Excellency mentions in the last part.

With reference to the facilities upon which the refugees in Trinidad count in the progress of their designs against Venezuela, I did not for a single moment wish to insinuate the charge either of assistance extended or consent obtained from the colonial authorities, but was referring to the liberty with which the enemies of the existing Administration of the Republic carry out there their plans. A proof of the hostile deeds which there are done without hindrance lies in the fact that only a short time ago two bodies of invaders issued from the Colony. The first, which was completely conquered, returned to the island, and of the second, various prisoners, forming a living testimony of the origin of the invasion, fell into the power of the Venezuelan military authorities as the result of a defeat.

As for the rest, the Government well know that they cannot doubt the neutral spirit of the authorities of Trinidad, and their only complaint is that no direct action is taken to prevent acts of disturbance, which perhaps do not do so much harm

by their immediate effects as by the precedent which they establish, engendering future distrust towards those who live by the honourable practice of trade in the eastern part of the Republic.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) EDUARDO BLANCO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Blanco.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, October 11, 1901.

I HAVE read with great pleasure your Excellency's note of the 7th instant, in which your Excellency is pleased to express the grateful thanks of the President and of yourself for the transmission of the opinions contained in your note of the 1st instant on the subject of matters connected with relations between Trinidad and Venezuela.

Your Excellency was, at the same time, good enough to explain a phrase in your previous note, with reference to the facilities stated therein to be afforded in the Island of Trinidad to revolutionary designs against Venezuela, and to disclaim the intention in these words of any imputation against the authorities of Trinidad.

I am sincerely glad that this should be the case, and it will give me much pleasure to forward this explanation both to His Majesty's Government and to his Excellency the Governor of Trinidad.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 24.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 7.)

Sir,

Downing Street, November 6, 1901.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a despatch, with inclosures, from the Governor of Trinidad, relating to another violation of British territory at Patos Island by Venezuelan officers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. BERTRAM COX.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Government House, October 3, 1901.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the outrages committed by Venezuelan "guardacostas" on British territory at Patos, I have the honour to forward the inclosed correspondence relative to the seizure of the sloop "Pastor" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo" off that island.

A copy of the correspondence now submitted has been sent to the British Minister at Caracas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Petition of Numa Audry, of Trinidad.

To his Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, Vice-Admiral thereof, &c.

THE humble petition of Numa Audry of the town of Port of Spain, in the Island of Trinidad, sheweth :—

Your petitioner is a native of this island.

Your petitioner was a passenger on board the sloop "Pastor," which left here for Guiria on the fourth evening of Tuesday the 20th August last, and arrived at Patos on Wednesday the 31st.

Whilst the sloop was anchored at Patos the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo" passed and lowered her steam, and sent a boat with a complement of five men armed with rifles, and on getting near the men, aimed their gun at us.

Upon leaving Patos, sailing for Gasparee for British protection, the sloop had not got more than 250 yards from Patos when the Captain of the Venezuelan gun-boat commanded the captain of the sloop to stop, and then fired at the sloop. The captain was taken prisoner and put on board the "Totumo," and the next morning the sloop was towed to Guiria by the "Totumo." On arriving at Guiria the Administrator there ordered the passengers, male and female, a boy, and your petitioner to land, and were taken under the charge of policemen to the Customs.

Your petitioner was placed in a corner as prisoner, and was guarded by a water policeman, whilst the woman and boy were allowed to stay outside, and when they were afterwards discharged, but your petitioner was kept there for two hours.

When the Harbour-master came, your petitioner had to get the captain of the sloop to intercede for him, and your petitioner was then released on his own bail, and on the next day, upon your petitioner producing the passport, was set free.

Your petitioner is at present engaged in the balata gum trade, and had made engagements with certain persons at Guiria in the United States of Venezuela, to whom your petitioner made advances in money.

Your petitioner suffered grievously, both mentally and physically, by the proceedings of the constituted authority of the United States of Venezuela.

Your petitioner, as a British subject, claims through his Excellency protection from the Government of the United States of Venezuela, and damages and compensation to the extent of 500*l.*, and also all costs and damages which your petitioner has suffered.

Wherefore your petitioner, as a British subject, humbly prays that his Excellency may be pleased to claim on behalf of your petitioner from the Government of Venezuela the sum of 500*l.* for the injuries and violence sustained by your petitioner, and all costs which your petitioner has suffered and sustained, and such further and other relief as the nature of your petitioner's case may require.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

(Signed)

NUMA AUDRY.

September 12, 1901.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

Statement by Numa Audry.

I AM a Trinidadian.

First account in "Mirror" was given by him and is correct—that published to-day is not correct.

Shows passport dated the 19th August issued by Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain. Touched at Patos, saw some stuff put ashore, the gun-boat seeing us came in, she searched the vessel, but only took the stuff which was on shore, and the men on shore, on board the gun-boat. They sent for the captain of the sloop, but he refused to go, but subsequently they took him. After the events given in the "Mirror" the Collector of Customs (Administrator) at Guiria offered to return the goods seized on payment of duty, but the men refused. I was present, and could catch enough to understand what took place.

Everybody on the sloop were ultimately released, and I returned to the sloop. I was

prevented by the results of my fall from doing my business at Guiria, and I intend to forward a claim for compensation.

The firing took place after we left Patos—about 250 yards off—but guns had been pointed at us when at anchor in the bay.

My box was rummaged and articles, *e.g.*, razors, were stolen.

The sailors who were seized all spoke English, and were presumably British subjects. The navigator was a British subject, he was not transferred to the steamer. The “paper” captain was a Venezuelan.

(Signed)

H. C. BOURNE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

September 10, 1901.

Inclosure 4 in No. 24.

Statement by Abraham Williams.

I WAS born in Tobago. I am a British subject. I have been in Trinidad twelve years. I have been working as a sailor and captain all that time. I can navigate between here and Venezuela and here and Tobago. I know the coasts. I have been employed on the “Pastor” about three or four years. The owner is André Carcino. He employed me. He pays me by the voyage, 5 dollars a voyage. I steer the ship. I left Trinidad on the 20th August. The boat was in charge of Euphemio Bompert, and I had to obey his instructions. Leaving here we went to Patos. Bompert ordered me to do so and we did so. When we got to Patos we stopped there the whole day. We landed some cargo that we had. We met one boat in Patos, and two others came to Patos together with us. These boats had no names. Spanish people were in these boats. I do not know all the names of them. I know one of them, Mathias Smith, had a large boat. I cannot remember the names of any of the others. These two boats left here with us. I was towing two of them, and they were empty. These two boats landed the cargo which we had for them. The cargo was tobacco, cigarettes, flour, rice, salt fish, tassajo. The “Pastor” was cleared at the Customs here, and I cleared with respect to all these goods. It was arranged that we should go into Patos to hand over the cargo to these other boats. We landed our cargo, and in the afternoon I was coming out and going to Guiria with the balance of cargo and some passengers, among whom was Mr. Audry, and a female and a boy. When I was coming out the steamer came across the passage. They called upon me to let go the anchor and we did so. He lowered his boat and came alongside with four men armed with guns and two pulling, and asked me where I was bound to. I told him I had come from Trinidad, and was going to Guiria, and he asked me where are my papers.

He read them, and went below and inspected, and he asked me where the three boats belonged. I told him I did not know anything about them, as we met them there.

He went ashore and formed up his men, and he wanted the men to all go on board the steamer, and some objected, as they were in English waters. He said they must all go or else he will do something. He then ordered his men to take the goods that were ashore and put them on board his steamer, and he made the men prisoners, and put them also on board. After that he came back to me. He said that the captain had ordered him to tell me to come alongside. I said we were in English waters, and only an English cruiser could make us come out of there. I said we will leave here when we want to, because we are in English waters.

He went back to his steamer; he started going to Guiria. I was coming back to Trinidad in consequence of what they had done. Bompert ordered me to do so. It was then getting dark. As we were coming out the steamer called out to me and fired after me. The ball passed between the spars. He was trying to prevent me from coming to Trinidad, and then I started to go to Guiria. He gave me two hours to take the Spanish water, and when I did so he called me to heave to, and ordered me to lower a boat, and Bompert refused as the sea was too rough, so he lowered the boat and carried Bompert a prisoner on board the steamer.

He left me with two men armed. There was no wind, and I drifted back into English waters. At the next tide I again drifted towards Guiria, and on the next day the same steamer towed me into Guiria.

When I got to Guiria the harbour-master ordered me to land the passengers. We

were there until the next day. They did me nothing. I carried the cargo to Sora, a village lower down, and gave it to the owner.

They did me nothing. The harbour-master told Carcino that when he returned to Trinidad not to report what had been done. Carcino told me this. Bompert is in Guiria. Carcino is there. I came back in the "Pastor" with Carcino.

Since that the vessel has gone again down. I have not been discharged, but I was scared as they threatened me. There were no guns or arms among the goods I landed. These goods do not appear in the Consul's papers.

No. 25.

Customs to Foreign Office.—(Received November 9.)

Sir,

Custom-house, November 8, 1901.

I AM directed by the Commissioners of Customs to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of Reports received from officers of this Department with regard to the fitting out of the "Ban Righ."

I am to request to be informed, as soon as possible, whether any action is to be taken by this Department in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Mr. Muir to Commissioners of Customs.

Honourable Sirs,

London, November 6, 1901.

INFORMATION reached me yesterday that a vessel was fitting out in the Thames in a suspicious manner. The engineer was receiving 25*l.* a-month, to be increased to 50*l.* when the vessel sailed. The crew was much larger than usually carried by a vessel of her size, and they were being paid at a proportionate rate.

From the annexed particulars, obtained from the Registrar-General, it will be seen that the vessel has quite recently passed into the hands of a foreigner, who is a naturalized British subject.

I communicated with the Inspector of Waterguard, from whom I have received the annexed report, and who has instructed the Chief Preventive Officer to report at once anything further of a suspicious nature which comes under his notice.

The master of the vessel has to-day made the inclosed ballast declaration, that he is bound to Callao, via Antwerp, and has signed the usual request for bonded stores.

From the various reports received, the suspicion naturally arises that the vessel is fitting out as a privateer, and I have accordingly felt it my duty to report the circumstances.

Inquiry at the Shipping Office might be useful as to the number and nationality of the crew.

(Signed) W. MUIR, *Collector.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Entry made in Probate and Naturalization Book, London, October 28, 1901.

DE PAULA, Rudolph Hermann Wolfgang Leopold.

Naturalized under Naturalization Acts, 1870, on the 22nd June, 1876. Oath of allegiance taken, 29th June, 1876.

(Signed) R. DE PAULA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

Mr. Clandillon to Inspector of Waterguard.

Sir,

8 Room, Custom-house, November 5, 1901.

ACTING under your instructions, I to-day proceeded to the Victoria Dock and boarded the steam-ship "Ban Righ," late Aberdeen Steam-ship Company, which is lying at the North Quay. I found a number of carpenters and rivetters at work; the former were engaged building what the mate informed me were lockers in the extreme ends of the fore and after holds, but which one of the workmen subsequently told me were powder-magazines. The rivetters were unshipping the lower part of the funnel casing.

The compartment in the fore hold extends the width of the vessel, and is about 12 feet long, built entirely of wood and raised about 3 feet from the flooring and the entire height of the lower hold. The after compartment is not so forward in construction. Entering the cabin, which is aft, I noticed that a hatch is being cut which appears to me to be over the magazine. The mate volunteered the statement that this hatch was being cut to get at stores. He also informed me that the after deck above the cabin had been strengthened as a signal-gun was about to be erected there. The vessel is fit up with electric light, and men are now employed fitting up the necessities for a flash-light on the foremast. Alongside the vessel I noticed a barge loaded with sacks of coal, or what the mate told me were bags of coal and appeared to be such, these, he informed me, would be stowed just as they were in the 'tween-decks each side of the engine-room.

The mate seemed reticent on any matter relating to the ship's future, but I gleaned in conversation that she was going to sign on a crew to-day and sail for Antwerp almost immediately, where stores were to be shipped, and then the vessel, which had been purchased by a Syndicate, was going on a pleasure cruise to the West Indies and the Spanish main.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

C. CLANDILLON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 25.

Mr. Clandillon to Inspector of Waterguard.

Sir,

8 Room, Custom-house, November 6, 1901.

IN continuation of my report of yesterday, I beg to state that I again visited the vessel this morning and ascertained that the barge alongside contained coal as stated.

I also found men busily employed laying an ironwork foundation on the after deck (above the cabin) which they told me was for a swivel gun, and in every way appeared to be such.

I also noticed that the hatch in cabin entry was almost completed, together with another in the 'tween-deck, both being connected by a cased wall leading to the after magazine.

I may observe that during my twenty-four years' experience on waterguard duty I have never remarked arrangements as described on ordinary merchant or passenger vessels.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

C. CLANDILLON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 25.

Mr. Clandillon to Inspector of Waterguard.

Sir,

8 Room, Custom-house, November 8, 1901.

I BEG to report that acting on your instructions I this morning visited the Mercantile Marine Office, Tidal Basin, where the crew of the steam-ship "Ban-Righ" shipped this morning, and through the kindness of the Superintendent examined the articles.

I find the crew consists of: master, 3 mates, 4 engineers, 1 purser, 1 assistant purser, 1 carpenter, 1 boatswain, 1 lamp and A.B., 9 able seamen, 1 donkeyman, 3 greasers, 9 firemen, 5 stewards, and 2 cooks, 42 in all, and all British subjects.

Voyage; London to Antwerp, thence to West Indies, touching any ports or places therein and on route, thence proceeding to Colon, where the crew will be discharged with the consent of His Britannic Majesty's Consul or other proper authority, maximum period of engagement not exceeding six months.

The master to provide the crew with a second-class passage to London or Southampton by first home steamer from Colon, wages till time of arrival.

The clothing provided by the owner shall be considered as ship's stores, and shall be delivered to the master at the end of the voyage, it will be given to each member of the crew, who conducts himself to the entire satisfaction of the master.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) C. CLANDILLON.

P.S.—Vessel will probably sail Sunday next.

C. C.

Inclosure 6 in No. 25.

Mr. Clandillon to Inspector, Waterguard.

Sir,

8 Room, Custom-house, November 8, 1901.

RE steam ship "Ban-Righ."

I beg to report that this afternoon, acting on your instructions, I again visited this vessel, and find that since my last visit the foundation (iron) for a swivel gun is now laid on the fore deck, similar to that on the after deck; this one the mate informs me is for the man on the look-out to stand in, a statement which is questionable.

I also observed that there has been a communication made from the forward deck to the magazine in the fore-hold, by means of a ventilator, and also a well similar to that previously described by me in the after-hold, and which, one of the workmen informed me, was for getting the ammunition through, and appears to me to be a correct statement.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) C. CLANDILLON.

No. 26.

Customs to Foreign Office.—(Received November 14.)

Sir,

Custom-house, November 14, 1901.

WITH reference to my letter of the 8th instant, I am now directed by the Commissioners of Customs to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and for such directions as he may see fit to give, copies of letters received from Mr. R. de Paula (the owner) and from the Colombian Consul-General, with regard to the detention of the "Ban Righ."

I am to add that the Consul-General called personally with his letter, and stated to the Secretary to the Board that the vessel was intended to load arms and ammunition at Antwerp for his Government.

The Admiralty have also been apprised.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Mr. R. de Paula to Customs.

Sir,

1 A, St. Helen's Place, London, November 13, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day with respect to the detention of the steam-ship "Ban Righ," and to acquaint you that I

have requested the Colombian Consul-General to furnish you with full explanations and should these, as I trust, prove satisfactory to you, I would respectfully request that permission for the vessel to proceed by to-morrow afternoon's tide be notified to me and your officers in charge at the earliest possible moment.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) R. DE PAULA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Señor Calderon to Customs.

Consulate-General of Colombia,
46, Queen Victoria Street, London, November 13, 1901.

Dear Sir,

I BEG to inform you that the steam-ship "Ban Righ," now lying off the Custom-house in the Victoria Docks, is for the Government of Colombia and consigned to Colon.

I will be very much obliged if you kindly make every effort in order that the vessel can proceed by to-morrow afternoon tide.

Yours truly,
(Signed) G. R. CALDERON.

No. 27.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 15, 1901.

ASCERTAIN from Venezuelan Government whether they hold that a state of war exists or not with Republic of Colombia.

Reply by telegraph.

No. 28.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Señor Ponce.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 15, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Señor Calderon, the Consul-General for Colombia at London, has stated to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs that a steam-ship named the "Ban Righ," now lying in the Victoria Docks, "is for the Colombian Government, and consigned to Colon."

I have to request you to be so good as to inform me, at your earliest convenience, whether this vessel has, in fact, been purchased by the Colombian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 29.

Señor Ponce to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 16.)

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Colombian Legation, London, November 15, 1901.

IN reply to your Excellency's note of to-day relative to the vessel "Ban-Righ," I have the honour to inform you that Señor Calderon, Consul-General of Colombia in London, has communicated to me the copy of a letter on the subject which he has received from Mr. R. de Paula, and which runs as follows:—

"To the Consul-General of Colombia.

"Sir,

"1 A, St. Helen's Place, London [undated].

"In reply to your inquiry, I beg to state that as my agreement contemplates the delivery of the vessel at Colon, she sails under the British flag and my ownership until the contract shall be completed.

"I have, &c.
(Signed) "R. DE PAULA."

I further have the honour to inform your Excellency that Don Francisco Fonseca Plazas, who has just arrived in London in the capacity of Courier de Cabinet of the Government of Colombia at this Legation, states that the "Ban Righ" is intended for the service of the Government of Colombia, and asks for my intervention with a view to the vessel being dispatched as quickly as possible.

In these circumstances, I request that your Excellency will be so good as to give the necessary orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) IGNACIO GUTIERREZ PONCE.

No. 30.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

Caracas, November 21, 1901.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 15th November, I have been officially informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that no state of war exists between Colombia and this country.

No. 31.

Foreign Office to Customs.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 21, 1901.

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th instant, respecting the detention of the steamer "Ban Righ," I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state to you, for the information of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, that His Majesty's Minister at Venezuela has reported by telegraph that no state of war exists between the Republics of Venezuela and Colombia.

Under these circumstances, Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the "Ban-Righ" may be at once released.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 32.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 22.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, October 27, 1901.

THE Governor of Trinidad forwarded me on the 7th October a correspondence relating to the seizure of the Venezuelan sloop "Pastor" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo" off the Island of Patos.

It would appear that the Venezuelan sloop "Pastor" was engaged on a smuggling expedition, the base of which was the Island of Patos, that the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo" landed a party of men on Patos and there seized the goods which had been landed by the "Pastor," and that while the boat was in British waters she was fired upon by the Venezuelan gun-boat.

No. 33.

Customs to Foreign Office.—(Received November 22.)

Sir,

Custom-house, London, November 21, 1901.

WITH reference to my letter of the 14th instant, I am now directed by the Commissioners of Customs to transmit herewith, for the information and directions of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a further communication this day received from the Consul-General for Colombia with regard to the "Ban Righ."

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Señor Calderon to Customs.

Consulate General of Colombia,

Dear Sir,

46, *Queen Victoria Street*, November 21, 1901.

IN the absence of our Minister, at present in Berlin, I request you to convey to the proper authorities the fact that the detention of the steam-ship "Ban Righ" and the publicity which the matter has attracted, is causing incalculable injury to my Government and country, and that in the name of my Government I request that the release of the ship be no longer delayed.

It is not out of place to remark that the reported downfall of Colon, which is stated to be in the hands of the revolutionists, increases my anxiety in the matter.

Considering the friendly relations existing between England and my country, I safely rely that my request will receive immediate attention.

I am, &c.

(Signed) G. R. CALDERON.

No. 34.

Customs to Foreign Office.—(Received November 23.)

Sir,

Custom-house, November 22, 1901.

WITH reference to your letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Commissioners of Customs to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that they issued instructions this morning for releasing the vessel "Ban-Righ" from detention.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. HENDERSON.

No. 35.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 25.)

• (Extract.)

Downing Street, November 23, 1901.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a despatch from the Government of Trinidad on the subject of the export of arms and ammunition from Trinidad to Venezuela.

Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the views which the Governor expresses, and proposes, should Lord Lansdowne see no objection, to inform him that he is content to leave the matter of the exportation of arms to his discretion.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Extract.)

Government House, Trinidad, October 24, 1901.

I HAVE received a despatch from the British Minister at Carácas on the relations between Trinidad and Venezuela.

An article in the "Port of Spain Gazette," to which Mr. Haggard refers, gives an account, which is far from accurate, of the matter with which it deals. The actual occurrences to which allusion is made would appear to be the following:—

(a.) The case of *Regina v. Ramus* and others: In 1888 certain Venezuelan partisans of Señor Crespo, who was then in Trinidad, took passage on board of one of the Orinoco steamers, owned by Mr. Lee, an American citizen resident in Port of Spain, and when only a few yards from the shore attempted to seize the vessel. They were successfully resisted by Mr. Lee's son, and in the fray which ensued two persons were shot and one was, as it is believed, drowned. The offenders were brought before the Stipendiary Magistrate of Port of Spain and committed for trial on a charge of

conspiracy. The Venezuelan witnesses did not appear at the Criminal Assizes, and the trial was adjourned to the next Session. In the interval, Sergeant, now Inspector Brierly, was sent to Carácas and endeavoured to persuade the Venezuelan Government to cause the attendance of the witnesses, of whom several were officials.

In the meantime, however, a reconciliation seems to have been effected between the President and Crespo, with the result that promises were all that could be obtained; and at the trial the witnesses were absent, and the prisoners were discharged.

(b.) The case of the "Tubal Cain": In 1880 a conspiracy to seize a steamer, owned by a Trinidadian, as she was passing Icacos, was reported. The vessel avoided the danger, but the police captured a number of armed Venezuelans on the spot. The latter were convicted of carrying arms without a licence and punished.

(c.) The alleged case of the pillage of Yaguarapare in Venezuela about the year 1895 was never officially reported, and depends, as far as this Government is concerned upon the newspaper statements.

(d.) The Ducharme case occurred in 1895: Some fishermen, British subjects, were for some alleged fishing offence in Venezuelan waters, locked up in a Venezuelan police-station. They effected their escape and put to sea, but landing on another point on the Venezuelan coast for the ostensible purpose of getting water, they were resisted by Mr. Ducharme, who fired at them, and they set on him with cutlasses and killed him. The culprits were arrested on their return to Trinidad, and the Government was anxious to punish them, but the laws of the Colony gave no jurisdiction to the Courts here to try persons accused under the particular circumstances. The matter was referred to the Secretary of State, and certain amendments of the law were then made.

In connection with any request to have the exportation of arms for Venezuela prohibited, the question of the dislocation and diversion of the Colony's trade has to weigh considerably. Again, the enforcement of export prohibition has many difficulties, and is, indeed, scarcely practicable. On the other hand, the prohibition of such imports into the Colony could be absolutely effected and controlled, and as I considered that such action would be appreciated and welcomed as an additional friendly act by the Venezuelan authorities, whoever they might be, and that it might possibly contribute to the solution of the 30 per cent. difficulty, I took it upon myself to ask our Minister to feel his way in the direction indicated, when he might find it convenient to revive the discussion of the preferential treatment to which great exception continues naturally to be taken in this Colony.

As you are aware, the 30 per cent. preferential duty over and above the ordinary import duties was originally imposed in 1881, as an unfriendly act by the Government of Venezuela.

Here as elsewhere in the Empire we have consistently maintained the tradition of allowing the fullest freedom of domicile to political refugees. The right of asylum has been conceded impartially to men of all parties and representatives of every opinion. Whilst they respect the privilege of domicile, appreciate the distinction between liberty and licence, and conform to our laws, it is no part of our province to trouble ourselves with their political antecedents, views, or aspirations. Our experience of the Spanish Main has taught us, that the refugee or revolutionist of one day may actually be the supreme power the next. Such was the case with General Guzman Blanco, to whom we stand indebted for the 30 per cent. additional taxation.

No. 36.

Consul-General Sir G. Perry to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 30.)

My Lord,

Antwerp, November 28, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the British steam-ship "Ban-Righ," of Aberdeen, Official No. 60704, C. E. Willis, master, arrived at Antwerp on the 24th instant from London, and not the 26th instant, as stated in the Antwerp newspapers. The vessel in question would appear to have been arrested by the Custom-house officers in London owing to her being loaded with a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition. The "Ban Righ" was afterwards released, and subsequently left England and was allowed to proceed to Antwerp direct. The master deposited the steamer's papers with the British Vice-Consul in charge of the Shipping Office, but the Vice-Consul says, made no report regarding the cargo on board.

According to the newspapers the "Ban Righ" has come here to complete loading, and is alleged to have taken on board a large quantity of rifles and ammunition of French manufacture, sent to Antwerp by a Paris forwarding agent. The steamer is further stated to be about to load a consignment of shell, which she will take on board at the Pipe de Tabac, about 20 miles below Antwerp.

This large amount of shell arrived from Dunkirk by barges. The steamer also has a great quantity of coal on board and is to ship another 150 tons here—which seems to indicate that she is to undertake a long voyage—so as not to be forced to replenish her bunkers *en route*.

I should add that the crew on board the "Ban Righ" numbers forty-one hands, and that the vessel is sailing at 3 A.M. to-morrow, the 29th instant, for the West Indies, according to the master's statement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERALD DE COURCY PERRY.

No. 37.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1901.

IN continuation of previous correspondence on the subject of Patos Island, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that a further despatch has been received from His Majesty's Minister at Caracas relative to the claim of the Venezuelan Government to that island.

Mr. Haggard incloses two notes from the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The arguments advanced in the first note, which forms Inclosure 1 to the despatch, do not appear to Lord Lansdowne to be of sufficient importance to call for a reply; and in the second note, Inclosure 3, Señor Blanco agrees again to suspend the correspondence, but without prejudice to any of the rights and titles of Venezuela, all of which he formally reserves.

Had the question rested there it might have been preferable not further to pursue the discussion for the moment.

In view, however, of the fact that the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo" landed a party of men on Patos, and there seized the goods which had been put ashore by the "Pastor," and that while this latter vessel was in British (Patos) waters she was fired upon by the "Totumo," it seems clear that the Venezuelan Government are determined to consider and to treat Patos as belonging to the Republic; and in these circumstances, even if the particular incident should not be considered to constitute a very strong case of aggression, the repeated violation of territory may make it desirable to record a further strong remonstrance against any infraction of the sovereign rights of Great Britain.

Lord Lansdowne would be glad to be favoured with Mr. Chamberlain's views on this point.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 38.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 13.)

Sir,

Downing Street, December 12, 1901.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of the pretensions of Venezuela to Patos Island.

2. I am to request you to inform the Marquess of Lansdowne that Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the proposal that a further remonstrance should be recorded against

any infraction of the sovereign rights of Great Britain over the Island of Patos, such as occurred in the case of the "Pastor."

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

No. 39.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, December 16, 1901.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 27th October respecting the action of Venezuelan gun-boat in landing men on the Island of Patos, confiscating goods put ashore there by the sloop "Pastor," and even firing on the sloop while she was in British waters. In view of this incident, and of the renewed violation of British territory, I should wish you to address to the Venezuelan Government a strong remonstrance against any infraction of British sovereign rights over Patos.

No. 40.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 3, 1902.)

(Extract.)

Cardcas, November 26, 1901.

THE constantly recurring question of the export of arms from Trinidad was brought up again in the note of the Venezuelan Government, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

The mention in this note of the advantages of reciprocity gave me an opportunity of putting the case on this basis before the Venezuelan Government from the probable point of view of the Governor of Trinidad, in the reply of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, November 18, 1901.

THE Government has trustworthy information that a few days ago a great quantity of rifles were disembarked on the Island of Tobago, together with the corresponding amount of cartridges, and of the fact that the operation has been carried on in an unusual manner to that generally employed in the transshipment and natural re-exportation of merchandise, since, as would appear, in addition to the goods not having been consigned to any commercial house, the arms remained deposited there as if in the hope of a propitious opportunity arising for their clandestine re-embarkation.

This fact, as well as other news which has reached the President respecting the disturbing influence which some of the refugee Venezuelans in Trinidad try to exercise over the eastern coast of the Republic (an influence lately extended to the press of Port of Spain, in which the Venezuelan Government is ceaselessly insulted), gives rise to the suspicion that an attempt may be made to reproduce a disturbance amongst the Venezuelan people living near the Colony similar to that which the Government had to suppress a short time ago with sacrifice of blood and interests, and to which my predecessor referred in his note sent to your Excellency on the 7th of last October.

The obligation under which the Executive Power finds itself of preventing by all legitimate means, whatever is designed to damage the national interests, urges me now, in compliance with special instructions from the President, to very earnestly request your Excellency's mediation in obtaining from the Colonial authorities within the shortest time possible the measures which may tend to prevent these arms leaving the Island of Tobago; on the news of which the Government will ever view this action as a proof of the friendly desires of the honourable British authority in making effective the principles of good neighbourliness, in the observance of which

the results of reciprocal benefit to the Republic and to the Colony must be looked for.

In thanking your Excellency in advance for your mediation in this matter, I must declare to your Excellency that the Government would doubly estimate the celerity with which this action is taken since its object is to prevent the perpetration of injuries to Venezuela of a grave nature and of wide-spread effect.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) J. R. PACHANO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Cardcas, November 22, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of yesterday's date, in which you do me the honour of requesting, in compliance with special instructions from the President, my mediation in causing the Colonial authorities of the Island of Trinidad to take the necessary measures, as soon as possible, to prevent the export of certain arms from the Island of Tobago, which, as your Excellency surmises, are possibly to be used to produce a disturbance among the Venezuelan people.

I did not fail, at the earliest opportunity, to forward your Excellency's wish to the Governor of Trinidad, who will doubtless give it his most careful consideration.

But, as I, in my note of the 4th ultimo, informed Dr. Blanco, your Excellency will realize that this matter is one essentially of internal administration, and that the questions involved in it can only be dealt with by the Governor of the Colony.

Your Excellency will forgive me again reminding the Venezuelan Government that the same considerations may present themselves to the Governor of Trinidad on the receipt of this renewed request to forbid the export of arms as those which I suggested as possible in my previous note, and he may think that the very suggestion of reciprocity between Venezuela and Trinidad which your Excellency makes, conveys that you are of opinion that international conduct cannot be all one-sided, and, in fact, that a State which wishes for reciprocal neighbourliness must be ready to give as well as desirous to take; and he may then remember that twenty years ago the Venezuelan Government levied an invidious tax on Trinidad, which was not only vexatious and illegal, but practically avowedly of a penal and retaliatory character; that though for many years past—from its inception, indeed—the circumstances which induced this retaliation have long since passed away, successive Venezuelan Governments have continued to levy this tax, thereby indorsing the injurious intention towards that Colony of its original imposition, and that this they have done notwithstanding the constant protests of His Majesty's Government, notwithstanding the fact that they were aware of the injuries that they were thus gratuitously inflicting on their friendly neighbour, and even notwithstanding the fact that in so doing they were injuring their own integral interests; and he may then ask: What is the nature of the reciprocity which is due from Trinidad to Venezuela?

Sir Alfred Moloney may also remember that the proposal has passed completely unnoticed which I had the honour of communicating from his Excellency to the President of the Republic in the month of April last, that, notwithstanding those injuries, he was ready, if the Venezuelan Government would in a friendly manner repeal this tax, to yield a point and meet his Excellency half-way by prohibiting completely the importation of arms into the Colony, a measure which, though detrimental to its commercial interests, would at least avoid the loss caused by the uncertainty of the constant and spasmodic changes made at the request of the Venezuelan Government, now to prohibit, now to allow, now again to prohibit, the export of arms. He may finally even not forget that when I had the honour of reminding your Excellency's predecessor, Dr. Blanco, that Dr. Andueza Palacio, when Minister for Foreign Affairs, had informed me, not only that the matter of the abrogation of the tax should be submitted to the next Congress, and should receive the full support of the Government, but that I could repeat to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the formal assurance of the Venezuelan Government that the tax should be done away with—a definite pledge which I had forwarded to His

Majesty's Government—his Excellency first of all informed me that there was no official record whatsoever of this statement, and subsequently repudiated the pledge of his predecessor because it was not in writing; and Sir Alfred Moloney may therefore think that, from the point of view of reciprocity which your Excellency suggests as advisable, it may be better to wait and see what is the decision of the Congress—to which body the question is to be submitted—before he takes measures to further impede the trade of Trinidad in deference to the wishes of the Venezuelan Government.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 41.

*Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 1.)**

(Telegraphic.)

Caracas, December 31, 1902.

A PROCLAMATION has been published in the "Official Gazette" in which the "Ban Righ" is declared a pirate, and a reward of 2,000*l.*, besides the vessel herself and cargo as prize, is offered to ships of war, or private ships of all nationalities bearing letters of marque granted by the Venezuelan Government—unless ship's papers are produced, or a statement of ownership supported by evidence.

I have warned the Venezuelan Government unofficially that any infraction of international law, with regard to the life and property of British subjects, should be avoided.

It is contended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that international law is overruled by the Venezuelan Law of Piracy.

His Majesty's ship "Tribune" has arrived.

No. 42.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 4.)

My Lord,

Caracas, December 5, 1901.

IN my despatch of the 26th instant I had the honour of forwarding to your Lordship a copy of a note from the Venezuelan Government, dated the 18th November, requesting my mediation with the Governor of Trinidad in inducing his Excellency to lay an embargo on some arms which had been landed at Tobago, which the Venezuelan Government suspected to be intended for Venezuela.

I lost no time in forwarding to the Governor of Trinidad a copy of this communication in the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Sir Alfred Moloney replied declining to follow the course suggested by the Venezuelan Government, and forwarded an opinion of the Colonial Attorney-General summing up the international law of the case on which he based his refusal. I have the honour to inclose a copy of my note to the Venezuelan Government, embodying his Excellency's views with those of the Attorney-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Mr. Haggard to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

Sir,

Caracas, November 20, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Venezuelan Government have just informed me that a few days ago a great quantity of rifles and cartridges were disembarked in the Island of Tobago in a suspicious manner, suggesting that an attempt may be made to produce a disturbance with them in Venezuela.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has begged for my mediation with your

Excellency in this matter. To this I am replying that it is one entirely for the internal administration of the Colony of Trinidad. He also begged me to communicate with your Excellency immediately.

I will forward copies of the note and my reply by next mail.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Cardas, December 2, 1901.

IN my note to your Excellency of the 22nd ultimo, I informed you that I had lost no time in forwarding to the Governor of Trinidad the request of the Venezuelan Government that measures should be taken as soon as possible to prevent the export of certain arms from the Island of Tobago, which, as your Excellency surmised, were possibly to be used in an attempt to produce a disturbance among the Venezuelan people.

I have now received his Excellency's reply, in which he states that this matter has been under his consideration and that he has no knowledge or control over the purposes and direction of these arms, and that he has no information to lead him to suppose that they are going to be used as is alleged.

Neither can his Excellency, he goes on to say, find any precedent whatever in favour of interference, nor is he prepared in view of the condition of things prevailing in the Spanish Main to accept the grave consequences of any such action against what he is given to understand is legitimate business.

His Excellency further incloses a copy of an opinion by the Attorney-General who says, in reply to an official inquiry on the subject, that he feels some little difficulty in advising on it as the request is one entirely out of the range of international law, as there is no international obligation on any State to interfere to prevent the export of arms and ammunition to another, even when the State requiring interference is at actual warfare. The Attorney-General goes on to say that the request *quia timet*, that a State should interfere to prevent its subjects dealing in lawful merchandize for fear that the merchandize may be purchased by people intending to create a disturbance, is a diplomatic document which has never before been issued by any civilized Government; as a matter of fact, he adds, in every European war both belligerents have from time immemorial freely drawn their stores and munitions from the merchants of neutral Powers without any Government having thought itself justified in addressing remonstrances to the neutral Governments for not stopping the traffic. These things are "contraband of war," and if a state of war exists, the belligerents are justified in seizing them. Exporters therefore export at their own risk; but no nation would submit to its trade being interfered with because some foreign belligerent feared that the supplies derived from it may possibly be shipped by some adventurous person to the ports of his enemy. Although cases have recently occurred in which some Governments have chosen, for reasons of their own, at special times to prohibit their subjects from delivering certain articles, the Attorney-General has never heard of such a thing being done at a time when no war existed, and merely on the suspicion that the supply might possibly be used to the detriment of some Government at the time at peace, but which apprehended that thereafter it might be subject to disturbance.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 43.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)

Sir,

Downing Street, January 9, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the

Governor of Trinidad, inclosing copies of reports by the Collector of Customs respecting the alleged cargo of arms and ammunition on board the sloop "Maria Teresa."

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Extract.)

Government House, Trinidad, December 12, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a report by the Collector of Customs on the subject of the statements made by the Venezuelan authorities that the sloop "Maria Teresa" carried a cargo of arms and ammunition.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Report of the Collector of Customs.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

THE "Maria Teresa" was understood to have been the property of two brothers Wilson, of Carriacou, one of whom, D. Wilson, signed as master the clearance papers for the voyage in question. Her name and Venezuelan nationality were probably due to the requirements of the Venezuelan law as regards coasting traders.

2. The vessel cleared for Guiria on the 8th January with the following cargo:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ barrel cigarettes,	1 barrel flour,
$\frac{1}{2}$ cask wine,	$\frac{1}{2}$ firkin butter,
1 case matches,	1 barrel malt liquor,
2 baskets oil,	2 bags rice, and
1 case vermouth,	"sundry packages general merchandise."

This last item might mean anything or nothing, being merely a conventional description of articles which, not being goods from bond or for drawback, the revenue is not interested in, and which do not go into our statistics.

3. I have no reason to suppose that the "Maria Teresa" carried arms and ammunition. Indeed, though it is usual for vessels trading with Venezuela to have among their stores weapons for protection, and she might without arousing suspicion or criticism have had half-a-dozen rifles, I was struck by observing that she apparently had not even a revolver. Inquiry among the waterguard officers produced the explanation that the Wilsons were very civil, quiet people, on good terms with the officials and residents on the opposite (Venezuelan) coast, and that they had long been conspicuous among their class in not carrying arms.

(Signed) R. H. McCARTHY.

November 19, 1901.

No. 44.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Consul Japp.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 10, 1902.

It is reported that the steamer "Libertador," formerly bearing the name "Ban Righ," has sailed for Venezuela after having been fitted out at Martinique as a man-of-war.

While reporting fully by despatch all information respecting vessel, you should at once telegraph whether she was flying the British flag, who was in command, and whether any British subjects were on board her.

No. 45.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 11, 1902.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, November 20, 1901.

THE French telegraph line having been interrupted for several days, your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant did not reach me till the evening of the 18th, too late for any steps to be taken on it. I, however, wrote a note, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, embodying your Lordship's inquiry as to whether the Venezuelan Government held that a state of war existed or not between the Republics of Venezuela and Colombia.

This evening I received the note, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, conveying that no state of war existed between Venezuela and Colombia.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, November 18, 1901.

I HAVE received instructions by telegraph from His Majesty's Government to ascertain from the Venezuelan Government whether or no they hold that a state of war exists between this Republic and that of Colombia.

I have been directed to reply by telegraph to this inquiry, and as a telegram has taken three days on its way, I shall be much obliged if your Excellency would be good enough to reply to my inquiry at your earliest convenience, and thus enable me to forward with the least possible delay the information required by His Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, November 20, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, in answer to your polite note of the 18th instant, that no state of war exists between Venezuela and Colombia, and that the situation continues in this respect subordinated to the circumstances expressed in the Memorandum transmitted by this Ministry to foreign Governments on the 16th August last.*

Accept, &c.

(Signed) J. R. PACHANO.

No. 46.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 15, 1902.)

My Lord,

Caracas, December 25, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the note embodying your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, in which you instructed me to address a strong representation to the Venezuelan Government with reference to the renewed violation of British territory at the Island of Patos by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo."

I have also the honour to inclose a translation of the reply from the Venezuelan Foreign Office which entirely ignores the protest, and assumes that the strong remonstrance of His Majesty's Government is merely a request for investigation into the circumstances connected with the matter, an unsolicited investigation which

* Circular communicated to foreign Representatives at Caracas by Venezuelan Government, containing a protest against the action of the Colombian Government.

they decline to institute with reference to the violation, "in view of the fact that it is notorious that they consider Patos as their own legitimate possession."

However, with reference to the complaint against their treatment which they assume that the British subjects, Abraham Williams and Numa Audrey, "wished to present" to them, his Excellency states that he will ask for information from three Departments—that of War and Marine, that of Finance, and that of Public Credit.

As, apart from other reasons, the questions, whether of revolutionary intrigues or smuggling, have nothing to do with the violation of territory, I therefore thought it advisable to address the further note to the Venezuelan Government, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, pointing out that His Majesty's Government had asked for no such investigation, and that my note had conveyed no such request on their part, but that I had confined myself therein to stating that the action of the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo" had constituted a renewed violation of British territory, and to conveying to his Excellency the strong remonstrance of His Majesty's Government against any infringement of the sovereign rights of Great Britain at the Island of Patos.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

P.S. *December 27.*—I have also the honour to inclose a translation of the rejoinder to my above-mentioned note, and a copy of my reply thereto.

W. H. D. H.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, December 17, 1901.

I HAVE been directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to lay the following circumstances before your Excellency.

A Venezuelan ship, called the "Pastor," left Port of Spain on or about the 20th of last August with a cargo of goods and three passengers; she appears to have been under the orders of a Venezuelan, named Euphemio Bompert, the navigating captain being a British subject, named Abraham Williams. At least one of the passengers also, a man named Numa Audrey, was a British subject.

The "Pastor" proceeded to the British Island of Patos, and some of the goods she contained were landed there on the next day.

A Venezuelan gun-boat, the "Totumo," then appeared and boarded the "Pastor," with armed men, whilst still at the island. These examined her papers and cargo; some of the crew of the "Totumo" were then landed on the island, where they seized and carried on board the gun-boat the goods there deposited. They, further, took some men prisoners—all this on British soil. The "Totumo" subsequently fired on the "Pastor" whilst still in British territorial waters.

In view of the discourteous action of the Venezuelan gun-boat "Totumo" in landing a party on the Island of Patos, and there seizing goods put ashore by the "Pastor," which constituted a renewed violation of British territory, and in further firing on that vessel whilst in British territorial waters, I have received instructions from His Majesty's Government, by telegraph, to address a strong remonstrance to the Venezuelan Government against any infringement of the sovereign rights of Great Britain in that island.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, December 20, 1901.

IN answering your Excellency's note of the 17th instant I have the honour to inform you that in the matter of the Venezuelan ship "Pastor" to which it referred, the investigation of the Government will not be able to be made with reference to violation of territory, since if, as appears from the facts transmitted to your Excellency, the event occurred in waters of the Island of Patos or within its boundaries, it must be considered in connection with the notorious circumstance that Venezuela considers the island in question as its legitimate possession.

With respect to the complaint which the British subjects Abraham Williams and Numa Audrey have wished to put forward as to the action taken on the ship of whose crew the former was a member, this Ministry will ask information on the matter from the Department of War and Marine, as well as from that of Finance and of Public Credit, for this may be a question of an act due to information received as to revolutionary plans on the coast, or of its having been chased on account of strong evidence pointing to the fact that the ship was engaged in the smuggling trade.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) J. R. PACHANO

No. 47.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 21, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, forwarding a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Trinidad respecting the allegation that the sloop "Maria Teresa," burnt by a Venezuelan gun-boat off Guiria, was carrying arms and ammunition at the time.

I am to state that a copy of your letter will be sent to His Majesty's Minister at Caracas, but that Lord Lansdowne does not propose to give him, at any rate for the present, further instructions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 48.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 23, 1902.

YOU should inform Venezuelan Government that "Ban Righ" left this country in November. There was no reason for detaining her as no state of war existed between Colombia and any other Power, and the Colombian Minister stated that she was intended for the service of his Government.

No. 49.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 27.)

Sir,

Downing Street, January 25, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a despatch, forwarding correspondence on the subject of the seizure and detention by the Venezuelan authorities of a colonial British owned and British registered sloop the "Indiana" in the waters of the Barima River in Venezuelan territory, which is open to free navigation under the Award of the 3rd October, 1899.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

*Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Chamberlain.**Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
December 31, 1901.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the inclosed papers on the subject of the seizure and detention by the Venezuelan authorities of a colonial British-owned and British registered sloop named the "Indiana," in the waters of the Barima River in Venezuelan territory, but where the ships of all nations enjoy the privilege of free navigation under the Award of the 3rd October, 1899.

2. I also inclose copy of a letter which I have written to His Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Venezuela on the subject, asking him to apply for the release of the vessel.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Acting Government Medical Officer, North Western District, to Government Secretary.

Sir,

December 21, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that it was reported to me by the owner, Antonio Consalves Jardine, a British subject, that on Monday evening, the 16th instant, his sloop "Indiana," anchored midstream on the Barima beyond the boundary-line, was seized and the whole crew arrested by Venezuelan officials.

I have, since the information given by the owner, seen the captain of the sloop who made his escape, and he confirmed the above.

Names of crew: Nathaniel Roberts, captain; James Nixon, Charlie, all British subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. S. WILLS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Acting Government Medical Officer, North-Western District, to Government Secretary.

Sir,

December 28, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant.

2. On the arrival of the Stipendiary Magistrate I reported the matter to him, and he took sworn statements from the owner (Antonio Jardine), and the captain (Nathaniel Roberts), who made his escape.

3. I have read the statements and are same as have been reported to me.

4. The Stipendiary Magistrate informed me that the sworn detailed statements would be sent to you for his Excellency's information by steamer leaving to-day.

5. The owner and the captain expect leaving here to-day for Georgetown; the others of the crew have not yet returned, and I believe are still in custody.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. S. WILLS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 49.

Acting Government Agent, North-Western District, to Government Secretary.

Sir,

December 27, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, two sworn statements taken from the owner and captain of the sloop "Indiana," relative to her seizure by the Venezuelans, whilst at anchor in midstream in the Barima River, and to ask for his Excellency's instructions in the matter. The owner of the sloop, Jardine, informs me that on the day he saw the Venezuelan Governor, the two boys, viz., Charlie and Joseph Dixon were still on the sloop, but whether they have been put in prison since he has not heard.

2. As the Indian girl, on whom it is alleged by the captain of the sloop that a rape had been committed, is apparently a British subject, I have instructed the police to make most careful inquiries in the matter, and will report further the result.

3. Mr. McTurk interviewed both the owner and captain of the sloop in my presence on the morning of the 25th instant.

4. Both the owner, Antonio Gonsalves Jardine, and the captain, Nathaniel Roberts, leave for Georgetown by the steamer to-morrow, and I have instructed them to report themselves at 10 A.M. on Monday at your office in case you wish to see them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Inclosure 5 in No. 49.

Statement by Antonio Gonsalves Jardine.

ANTONIO GONSALVES JARDINE, sworn, states:

I live at Lot No. 8, Coomacka Street, Georgetown, and am the owner of the sloop "Indiana." About mid-day on the 17th December, 1901, one Cæsar brought me the information that my sloop, the "Indiana," had been seized by the Venezuelans. I immediately left in a corial for the place where the sloop had been seized, and arrived at Amakura on the morning of the 19th instant. I at once went on shore to see the Governor, who told me that I might take charge of the sloop that day, but his Secretary, who was present during my interview, told me "No," because he saw contraband taken ashore, and that, if anything came of his refusal to release the sloop he would be responsible for it. The Governor then told me that he was going to write to the Government of Bolivar for instructions in the matter.

(Signed) ANTONIO GONSALVES JARDINE,
his x mark.

December 27, 1901.

Witnesses:

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.
THOMAS NARAIN,
Clerk of Court.

Taken and sworn before me, this 27th day of December, 1901.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate, N.W.J.D.

Inclosure 6 in No. 49.

Statement by Nathaniel Roberts.

NATHANIEL ROBERTS, sworn, states:

I am the captain of the sloop "Indiana," which is owned by Antonio Gonsalves Jardine, of Lot 8, Coomacka Street, Georgetown. On the 14th December, 1901, about 8 A.M., I left Morawhanna in the sloop "Indiana," for Venezuela, and sailed down the Barima River, having on board as crew an Indian boy named Charlie and a black boy named Joseph Nixon. I had not any cargo on board, but only 173 empty flour barrels which are used to convey corn to the market at Georgetown. I landed fifty of these at Jaipaul's grant, which is in British territory, the same afternoon. I arrived at the boundary on Monday, the 16th instant, about 9 A.M., and landed 56 empty barrels in a bateau at Edward Leung's grant, which is in Venezuelan territory. I then proceeded lower down the river to Edward Harry's grant, and there landed 27 empty barrels in the same bateau. I then anchored in mid-stream and sent the bateau with 30 more empty barrels to George Anthony's grant, which is about 200 rods further down the river from my anchorage, and the balance of 10 empty barrels to John Correis, who sent his bateau out to the sloop for them. This was about 2 P.M. About 5.30 P.M. the same day I saw the Venezuelan General's boat coming down towards the sloop. The General, or some one in authority—as I do not

know who he is—came on board with a black man, who carried a rifle, apparently a soldier (this boat had been made fast to the stern of the sloop meanwhile and the then armed Venezuelans who were in it then came on board). He told the black soldier to ask me if I had landed any cargo. I replied that I had not landed any cargo, but some empty barrels. The General then spoke to the black soldier in Spanish, who then ordered me to heave up the anchor. I asked why, as I had not landed my cargo. The black soldier then said that if I did not heave it up he would shoot me. While we were heaving up the anchor Edward Harry, who is a cousin of mine, came on board to find out what was wrong. The black soldier again spoke to the General in Spanish, and told Harry that he was to give a hand to heave up the anchor. Harry said he would not, as he was not working on board the sloop. The black soldier then “chucked” him until he got him near the dodge house (a small place where the crew shelter when the weather is very bad); then beat him with the butt of his rifle. After this, Harry went to the General and told him that he was a grant holder, so he let him go. About 7 P.M. we drifted down the river on our way to Amakura. Next morning, soon after daylight, the General and the then armed men Venezuelans went ashore to Ignacio’s grant. During their absence an Indian man and two women were coming up the river in a corial; the black soldier, who was left in charge of the sloop, called out to them to come alongside, but as they did not want to do so he pointed his rifle at them (this rifle has a magazine holding about sixteen ball cartridges); they then came alongside. He had the corial searched, and found a grass hammock. He took the hammock and ordered them away, but as the Indian did not want to leave without the hammock, he again pointed his rifle at him. The Indian then let go and went away. Just after this another corial was coming up, having an Indian man and a young Indian girl, about 16 years old, and her baby in it. The black soldier called out to them to come alongside, but as they would not, he pointed his rifle at them, and they came. He had the corial searched, but only found some grass that is used to make hammocks. The black soldier then ordered me to go and hold the corial and not to let the man come out of it. He then turned to the Indian boy Charlie and ordered him to bring the girl on board. He did so. He then ordered him to take her down below, taking his rifle with him, which he always carried in his hand, and sent Charlie upon deck. The black soldier then commenced to wrestle with the girl, who called out for help in her own language. On hearing this I loosed the (husband) Indian, but neither of us dared go to her assistance, as we were afraid that he would shoot us. I actually saw the black soldier have connection with the Indian girl. After this the black soldier ordered the Indian to come out of the corial, and, as he would not, he dragged him out. He then ordered the girl in the corial, gave the husband five blows across his shoulders and back with the butt of the rifle. The Indian then jumped into the corial and pulled away, the soldier telling him to go “deep into the bush; and don’t make him see him close to the river corner again” else he would shoot him. When the corial was a little way off he fired one shot at it, and told us that we must not tell the General anything, even if he asked us. If we did, and he heard of it, he would shoot us; so we did not say anything to the General when he returned. I do not know whether the Indian girl lives in the British or Venezuelan territory, but the husband told me that they were going to the Aruka. I have since heard that the girl is the daughter of one Gopee, by an Indian woman, who resides in British territory. That night, while the black soldier was keeping sentry, I managed to escape in their corial, and arrived at Morawhanna about 5 P.M. on the 18th instant. Previous to this trip I have made five other trips to Venezuela in the “Indiana,” and have acted in the same manner as on the present occasion, and never have experienced any difficulty, and can only account for it on this occasion because here is a new General stationed in this part of Venezuela since my last trip.

(Signed) NATHANIEL ROBERTS, his X mark.

December 27, 1901.

Witnesses to mark:

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.
THOMAS NARAIN,
Clerk of Court.

Taken and sworn before me, this 27th day of December, 1901.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate, N.W.J.D.

Inclosure 7 in No. 49.

Acting Government Agent, North-Western District, to the Government Secretary.

Sir,

December 28, 1901.

IN continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to forward a statement from Sergeant of Police No. 636 Murray, from which it will be seen that the man Gopce states that both his daughter Maria and her reputed husband left his grant in the Barima River for Moruca in the early part of November last, and have not returned; consequently, I do not think that she can be the same girl as the captain of the sloop mentions in his statement, as the Moruca River is about 5 miles from the mouth of the Pomeroon River, and the occurrence in question, it is stated, took place opposite Ignacio's grant, which is about 24 miles from the mouth of the Barima River, and is in a totally different direction.

2. The police are still making inquiries, and I hope to be able to furnish more definite information in connection with the alleged outrage on the young Indian girl by next steamer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN.

Inclosure 8 in No. 49.

*Sergeant Murray to Acting Government Agent, North-Western District.**Morawhanna Police Station, North-Western District,*

December 27, 1901.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that, in compliance to instructions received from you, I sent Police Constable 1502 Walcott, in charge of Police Bateau, to the grant of Gopce, who came to the Morawhanna Police-station, where I questioned him on the subject of his daughter being raped by a Spanish soldier, or police, on board the sloop "Indiana," as reported by Captain Roberts; and, according to the inquiry which I made, Gopce is altogether ignorant of such an incident occurring to his daughter Maria, who (as he informed me) left for Moruca about the first week in November last with her reputed husband, and has not returned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Sergeant 636, A. MURRAY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 49.

*Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Haggard.**Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,*

December 31, 1901.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, copy of the papers marginally noted on the subject of the seizure and detention by the Venezuelan Customs authorities of a colonial British-owned and British-registered sloop named the "Indiana" in the waters of the Barima River, within Venezuelan territory, which has been declared to be open in time of peace to navigation by the merchant ships of all nations, subject to all just regulations, and to the payment of light and other like dues . . . provided that no customs duties shall be chargeable either by the Republic of Venezuela or by the Colony in respect of goods carried on board ships, vessels, or boats passing along the said river, but customs duties shall only be chargeable in respect of goods landed in the territory of Venezuela or Great Britain respectively (Arbitrator's Award of the 3rd October, 1899).

2. I request that you will be good enough to ascertain from the Venezuelan Government the grounds on which the "Indiana" has been seized and detained, and that you will (if you think the circumstances justify such a step) represent to that Government that the confiscation of the vessel is an excessively severe penalty for any

infraction of Customs Laws of which the ship's company may have been deemed guilty, and apply for the release of the vessel.

3. The papers also contain certain charges against the Venezuelan officer placed on board the vessel, but until we receive more definite information as to the nationality of the Indian woman alleged to have been outraged, it might be well to defer making representation of these charges.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

No. 50.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 31, 1902.

A LETTER has been received from the Colonial Office, forwarding a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, in which he incloses some correspondence on the subject of the seizure and detention by the Venezuelan authorities of a colonial British sloop, the "Indiana," in the waters of the Barima River, which are open to free navigation under the Award of the 3rd October, 1899. Sir A. Swettenham states that he has also communicated this correspondence to His Majesty's Legation at Carácas, with a request that the grounds may be ascertained on which the "Indiana" has been seized and detained, and application made for her release, should the circumstances of the case appear to justify this step.

I should wish you to report whether you have made any representation to the Venezuelan Government in this sense, and, if so, with what result?

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 51.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 5, 1902.)

(Extract.)

Carácas, December 31, 1901.

THE Decree from the official Gazette of which I have the honour to inclose a translation proclaims as a pirate the ship called the "Barrigh" ("Ban Righ"), which has apparently had its name changed to "Libertador."

Inclosure in No. 51.

Extract from the Official Gazette of December 30, 1901.

(Translation.)

THE Provisional President of the United States of Venezuela,

Considering :

That exiled Venezuelans living in the West Indies have unceasingly conspired against the peace of Venezuela, and have even armed a steamer for war, as is proved by the allocution of General M. A. Matos, given on board the said steamer ;

That as the said steamer is not licensed by any nation it has no authority to navigate ; and

That it is necessary to preserve national and foreign commerce from the great dangers which the like piracy may bring on it,

Decrees :

Article 1. The steamer, formerly the "Barrigh,"* and now called the "Libertador" by the revolutionists who have sailed in her, under command of General M. A. Matos, for the Venezuelan coasts, shall be considered and chastised as a pirate ship.

* "Ban Righ."

Art. 2. The said steamer may therefore be pursued and captured by public or private ships armed as privateers, whether belonging to Venezuela or to any other nation.

Art. 3. In case the enterprise should be executed by foreign public ships, or by privateers, the Government of Venezuela will not make any claim to the capture, but everything taken shall belong to the capturers, and, furthermore, a reward of 50,000 bolivars shall be paid to them from the public Treasury.

Art. 4. Nationals and foreigners who, by virtue of this Decree, desire to arm privateers, shall solicit them from the Government of the Republic, in conformity with the Ordinance with respect to privateering now in force.

Art. 5. The capture shall be judged before the proper Tribunals, and according to the laws of the Republic, taking into consideration the provisions of this Decree.

Art. 6. The Ministers of War and Marine, Foreign Affairs and Finance and Public Credit, are charged with the execution of this Decree, and to communicate it to all concerned.

Given, signed, sealed with the seal of the National Executive, and countersigned by the Ministers of War and Marine, Foreign Affairs and Finance and Public Credit, at the Federal Palace in Carácas, the 30th day of December, 1901 (year 91 of the Independence and 43 of the Federation).

(Signed) CIPRIANO CASTRO.

No. 52.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 7.)

Sir,

Downing Street, February 7, 1902.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 25th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a further despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, with inclosures, relative to an alleged outrage on an Indian woman by a Venezuelan soldier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Chamberlain.

*Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
January 15, 1902.*

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a further letter and its inclosures, which I have addressed to His Majesty's Minister at Carácas, with regard to the alleged outrage on the Indian woman referred to in the papers forwarded therewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Haggard.

*Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
January 15, 1902.*

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to acquaint you that from information subsequently received it appeared that the Venezuelan authorities who seized the sloop "Indiana" had abandoned her and that certain other persons had taken possession of her. I thereupon inquired by telegram whether the Trinidad Government was in possession of any information respecting the sloop, to which Sir

Alfred Moloney replied in the negative, but adding that he would forward my message to you.

2. With reference to the last paragraph of my letter, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of further statements which have been obtained with reference to the alleged outrage on the Indian woman, and of a letter from the Acting Government Agent of the north-western district with regard to the alleged trial of the Venezuelan soldier who is said to have committed the offence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Statement by Stanislaus.

ABOUT a fortnight ago I was returning to the Aruku, where I live, when I saw a big boat in the Barima River, a good distance from Morawhanna, on the Venezuelan side. I had been to get some Eta palm from the Barima mouth, as it does not grow on the English side. My keeper, Maria, and a little girl were in the corial with me. A black soldier on the big boat beckoned to me to come alongside, and pointed the gun at us, so I came. He searched the corial but only found clothes and Eta palm. The black soldier then ordered Maria to go on board the big boat, which she did; he then ordered an Indian boy, who was on board, to take Maria down below the deck, which he did, then the black soldier followed Maria and ordered the Indian boy to go on deck. I then heard Maria "hollering" for help, but I did not go as I was afraid that he would shoot me. I was standing up in the corial, which was alongside the big boat, and Captain Roberts was in the small boat near to me. When Maria came on deck she appeared to be very frightened, and had her dress torn at the back; the black soldier then ordered Maria to get into the corial, and ordered me to get on board the big boat; he then commenced to juke me with the butt end of the gun, twice in the back and once in the chest, and told me to get into the corial and go away. As we were paddling away the Indian boy interpreted what the black soldier called out to us, viz., that we must go into the bush and not let him see us again. He then fired a "load" at us when we were not very far off.

After we had paddled some distance from the big boat Maria told me that the black soldier had had connection with her against her will. I did not report this at the Police-station as I was very much afraid and cannot speak the English language. The black soldier is a big, stout man. Besides the black soldier there were two black men and an Indian boy on the big boat.

(Signed) STANISLAUS, his X mark.

Witnesses:
(Signed) THOMAS NARAIN,
Clerk of Court.
Sergeant 636, ALBERT MURRAY.

Stanislaus: evidence of.

Taken and sworn before me this 30th December, 1901.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate, N.W.J.D.

Inclosure 4 in No. 52.

Statement by Johannah.

I AM a Warow Indian; am the mother of Maria Elizabeth, and live in the Aruka. About two weeks ago my daughter Maria told me that when she was returning with Stanislaus from the Barima mouth, that a black Venezuelan soldier had called them alongside a big boat in the Barima River, and had taken her down below and had had connection with her against her will, and that she had cried very much. She showed me

her dress where the soldier had torn it at the back. My daughter has lived all her life in the Aruka.

(Signed) JOHANNAH, her × mark.

Witnesses :

(Signed) THOMAS NARAIN,
Clerk of Court.
Sergeant 636, ALBERT MURRAY.

Taken and sworn before me this 30th day of December 1901.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate, N.W.J.D.

Inclosure 5 in No. 52.

Statement by Maria Elizabeth.

I AM a Warow Indian, and live in the Aruka with my mother, Johannah, also a Warow Indian, and a man named Stanislaus, also a Warow. I was born at Aruka, Alloysius, Patrick, Ignatius Chan sworn as an interpreter for the Warow language.

About two weeks ago I was returning to my home in the Aruka, with my reputed husband Stanislaus, in a corial, with my dead sister's little child. We had been down to the Barima mouth to gather Eta palm to shred, so as to make hammocks, as we cannot get it over the English side. When passing a big boat in the Barima River, a good way off from Morawhanna, in Venezuelan territory, the black soldier on board of the big boat called out to us and beckoned to us to come alongside, which we did—this was about mid-day. The black soldier told me to take everything I had out of my tin canister. I did so, and showed him; he then came and searched my things; there were only some clothes and Eta palm in it. After this the black soldier told me to come on board; I did so.

There was an Indian boy on board, who interpreted all that the black soldier said to me, and showed me where I was to go, telling me that if I did not go below that the black soldier would shoot me. I went below with the Indian boy, and when the black soldier came down, he sent him up on deck. The black soldier then caught hold of me, I struggled with him, and called out for help; he then threw me down on to the place where one sleeps in the cabin; he lifted up my dress and had connection with me against my will, as I was struggling all the time. He then told me to go up on deck and get into the corial; I did so, as I was very frightened at the time as he had squeezed me and hurt me very much. He did not give me any money or any present. After I got into the corial, the black soldier ordered Stanislaus to get on deck, and when he got there, he beat him with the stock of the gun and gave him three blows on his chest and back; he then told him to go away. After we left the big boat, the black soldier fired a shot at us, when we were about 20 yards away, and called out and said that we must go into the bush and not let him see us again. I did not report this to the police when I arrived at Morawhanna, as I could not speak English, but when I arrived home at the Aruka, I told my mother, Johannah, what had happened.

(Signed) MARIA ELIZABETH, her × mark.

Witnesses :

(Signed) THOMAS NARAIN,
Clerk of Court.
Sergeant 636, ALBERT MURRAY.

Taken and sworn before me this 30th day of December, 1901.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate, N.W.J.D.

When the black soldier called us to come alongside the big boat, he pointed the gun at us, and said he would fire if we did not come. After we left the big boat, I told Stanislaus all that the black soldier had done to me when in the cabin.

(Signed) MARIA ELIZABETH, her × mark.

Witnesses :

(Signed) THOMAS NARAIN,
Clerk of Court.
Sergeant 636, ALBERT MURRAY.

Taken and sworn before me this 30th day December, 1901.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate, N.W.J.D.

Inclosure 6 in No. 52.

Acting Government Agent, North-Western District, to Government Secretary.

Sir,

January 6, 1902.

ON Saturday evening, the 4th instant, after the steamer had left, the Rev. Father Gillet informed me that a Venezuelan named Louis Flores had been to him during last week, and had shown him apparently an official document, purporting to be the Minutes of the trial of the black Venezuelan soldier, who, it is alleged, had committed an outrage on the Indian girl, Maria Elizabeth, and that he had been tried by the Venezuelans, and that, apparently on account of the evidence of the witnesses, one of whom was a native of Demerara, a Protestant, who swore "by his God" that the soldier only took a fish (a maracot), and another, a Roman Catholic, who denied that any outrage had been committed; he, the Venezuelan soldier, has since disappeared from the district.

2. This Venezuelan also informed the Father that he had actually acted as interpreter in the case in question, also that a sail had been picked up by the Venezuelans, which it is thought belonged to the sloop "Indiana," recently seized by them, as the sloop had been ordered from Amakuru to Bolivar. Whether the sloop has been wrecked or not I cannot ascertain, but I will report further any information I may be able to obtain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR CHOPPIN.

No. 53.

Acting Consul Hudson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

Panamá, February 7, 1902.

THE steam-ship "Ban Righ" is reported by "Psyche," which returned to Colon on the 6th instant, to have left for Carthagena, and probably for Venezuela.

The owner of the vessel, at time of her leaving England, De Paula, came in her as far as Carthagena, and is now returning to England as a passenger on board the "Atrato."

He informed me that the sale to Colombia of title to the vessel was completed on the 1st January at Martinique, where English crew were dismissed. As the vessel was not transferred until the 2nd January, when she was at sea, by a bill of sale, from De Paula to Matos, executed under Colombian instructions, the Colombian ensign was never hoisted at Martinique.

The transfer was notified in writing by De Paula from Savanilla to the Registrar of Shipping at Aberdeen.

No. 54.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Acting Consul Hudson.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 8, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 7th instant, you should report whether De Paula transferred the steam-ship "Ban Righ" to the Colombian Government or to a Colombian citizen at Martinique on the 1st January, and, if to a Colombian citizen, you should report his name.

If such transfer took place, do you understand that the second transfer was made with the knowledge or by the order of the Colombian Government? And can you explain how De Paula could give a bill of sale to Matos on the 2nd January, after having parted with the property in the vessel on the 1st January?

No. 55.

Acting Consul Hudson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Panamá, February 11, 1902.

WITH reference to the inquiries contained in your telegram of the 8th instant, I have to report that according to statement of De Paula, he purchased the "Ban Righ" as the agent of the Colombian Government, and was instructed by them, after the purchase had been completed at Martinique, to transfer the vessel to General Matos.

No. 56.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 14.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, January 24, 1902.

I RECEIVED your Lordship's telegram* of yesterday evening, and this morning called upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs and read it to his Excellency, who said that it did not make any difference in the position; that because the "Ban Righ" had sailed originally from an English port, had flown the British flag, and been provided with English papers, therefore England was responsible for her whole subsequent career. He added that the declaration of the Colombian Minister that she was intended for the service of his Government was merely a "side issue." He clearly conveyed, in fact, though in polite words, that it was simply begging the question to say that there was not any reason to detain the vessel because the Colombian Minister had stated that she was intended for the service of his Government, and no state of war existed between Colombia and any other Power. He repeated that a pirate she was, and that we were entirely responsible for her actions; that as revolutionaries on land were only bandits, so she was a pirate at sea.

I asked his Excellency what acts of hostility the "Ban Righ" had as yet committed against Venezuela. He replied that she had landed arms. This may be the case, but I have at least not yet succeeded in getting any real confirmation of this statement, any more than I have of many other rumours of the movements of the ship of late on the Venezuelan coast, when, as would seem probable, she has gone off to Colombia.

I did my best to persuade his Excellency of the untenability of the position taken up by his Government, though without, I fear, any success.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note which I have sent to his Excellency recording my having conveyed to him verbally the information contained in your Lordship's telegram.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, January 24, 1902.

AS I had the honour of informing your Excellency verbally this morning, I have been instructed by His Majesty's Government to state to you, with reference to a conversation which I had on the 21st instant with your Excellency, which I reported to the Marquess of Lansdowne, that the "Ban Righ" left England in November, and that the Colombian Minister in London having stated that she was intended for the service of his Government, and no state of war existing between Colombia and any other Power, there was not any reason to detain the vessel.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 57.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 14.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, January 25, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose further correspondence on the subject of the "Ban Righ."

The first of these letters is one from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which he represents me as having stated that the "Ban Righ" was dispatched from British ports. This is a misstatement, as I have shown in my reply to General Pachano. On it, however, later on in the note, is founded a "solemn protest of the Venezuelan Government against the unusual fact of the equipping in and the dispatching from British ports a ship with the intention of injuring Venezuelan commerce and of disturbing by piratical operations the tranquillity of the Republic."

It goes on to say that "greater force and fitness is imparted to this protest by the fact that this aggressive movement was prepared in the waters of His Majesty whilst the British and Venezuelan Governments were enjoying relations of a peculiarly cordial character."

As regards the injury to Venezuelan commerce none whatever has taken place, for ships of all nations—Venezuelan included—come and go with their usual regularity, and, as your Lordship will see from the inclosed copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at La Guayra, the evidence forwarded to me officially by the Venezuelan Government of the boarding of the sloop "Santa Clara," with the object of endeavouring to give some further ground that the "Ban Righ" was a pirate than the only one hitherto put forward by them, that on the 30th December she had that character because she was unprovided with papers—a statement which I disproved—is not of more value than that statement itself.

I have ventured to abstain from translating the declaration of the crew, of which I only send copies, as they are formed on the same model as that of the Captain, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, January 14, 1902.

ON the 3rd instant your Excellency informed the Government of the Republic that you had received official information that the steam-ship "Ban-Righ," which had changed its name to the "Libertador," and which the Executive Power had just declared a pirate, flew the English flag and was provided with British papers. Such a circumstance must be considered very serious, since the Government had categorical proof of the hostility of the ship, and sufficient motives for thinking that it was being directed into Venezuelan waters in manifest connivance with the rebels which existed in two Venezuelan States. The Proclamation issued on board was a full confirmation of the above, notwithstanding the slight importance which your Excellency attributed to this rebellious act against the National Government.

Shortly afterwards the sloop "Santa Clara" arrived at the port of La Guayra, with the upper works destroyed by that pirate ship; and later it was known that the crew of the "Ban Righ" had been taken from the revolutionaries who had had asylum in Trinidad and Curaçoa—as is public and notorious in those Antilles—to be secretly conducted to the coast of Venezuela with the object of being disembarked there.

The Government has as yet obtained no information that the British nation, from whose ports, according to your Excellency's own statement, was dispatched this hostile ship, has ordered the judgment and punishment of those who contributed to its armament, although it includes in its legislation such adequate dispositions as that called "The Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870." And if, as we have to suppose, His Majesty's Government does not support the conduct of the fitters-out and the crew of the ship, it would seem to be it which ought, in the first place, to instigate the legal measures for their subsequent punishment.

Neither maritime law nor any principle or concrete maxim of international law can support a ship situated in this abnormal condition; and as the Government of Venezuela has taken measures that one part of the national fleet shall go to search for, to chase, or

to destroy it, in accordance with the necessities of its own defence, the President wishes your Excellency to be informed of the new proofs of the culpability of the ship, in case British subjects, incorporated in its crew, should fall under the natural but just action of the country attacked.

At the same time, the Government wishes to solemnly protest against the unusual fact of the equipping in, and the dispatching from, British ports a ship with the intention of injuring Venezuelan commerce, and of disturbing by piratical operations the tranquillity of the Republic. Greater force and fitness is imparted to this protest by the fact that this aggressive movement was prepared in the waters of His Majesty while the British and Venezuelan Governments were enjoying relations of a particularly cordial nature.

In order that your Excellency may judge better of the acts perpetrated by this pirate ship, I inclose a certified copy of the declarations on the subject of the boarding of the sloop "Santa Clara"—declarations in which your Excellency will find other facts showing the revolutionary character of the ship, in contradiction to those showing its legality, which, in accordance with the information of the British Legation, might be attributed to it.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) J. R. PACHANO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Declaration.

(Translation.)

DEPARTMENT VARGAS OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

The Prefecture, La Guayra, January 9, 1902.

IN accordance with a summons from the Office there appeared before it to-day at A.M. the captain of the sloop "Santa Clara," who, under oath, said that his name was Henry van der Hans, being 29 years of age, single, of a sailor's profession, and a native of Curaçao. He was interrogated by the Prefect of the Department Vargas, thus:—

Q. What day and at what hour did you meet the revolutionary steamer which caused the injuries to the sloop of which you are captain?—A. On the 3rd instant at about 12 in the day.

Q. Say how it was that the revolutionary steamer caused the injuries to the sloop of which you are captain?—A. On the day and at the hour which I have mentioned I was going to Piritu from Barcelona, and between Capes Unare and Codera, and at about 20 miles from the coast, we met the revolutionary ship, which ordered us to heave-to and to let the boat into the water, and that I was to go aboard. When I prepared to do what they told me the steamer began to back in the direction of my boat, and the more that I shouted out to them to make the steamer go in a forward direction, because they were likely to upset me, they kept on backing, coming down upon me, and with the stern of the steamer broke off my bowsprit and the mast. Five men then got into the steamer's boat whom I do not know, and took me on board the steamer.

Q. What flag had the steamer to which you refer?—A. It was flying none, but after it left us a signal flag was hoisted of a white colour with a blue ball in the centre; that flag was hoisted on the back mast, and the steamer had two masts.

Q. What armament has the steamer to which you refer?—A. I saw two cannon of about three or four varas [*sic*]; one on the poop and the other in the bows; but one of the men on board told me that they had six cannon more to mount.

Q. Tell me who composed the crew of the steamer?—A. The crew were Venezuelans. I cannot calculate their number, nor do I know any of them. I can only say that one of the crew asked me if I knew a fair man who was present dressed in plain clothes, and when I told him no he told me that it was Roland.

Q. What other questions were you asked on board?—A. A tall gentleman, thin, with a white beard and spectacles, took me to a room, and, in presence of three others, one of which was he who I had been told was Roland, asked if I knew where were the war-ships of Venezuela, to which I answered that I did not know as I had been more than a month away from La Guayra. Then he said, "If he has been a month away from La Guayra he does not know." I bear witness that the steamer is painted

black and has also a black funnel. It has two decks in the lower one. I saw people who appeared to me to be troops, and above there were only officers, and I saw no arms of any kind except the cannon to which I have referred.

Q. Did you not claim anything for the damage sustained by your boat?—A. Yes, I did, but they told me they could not give me anything now; that I might take the name of the ship and of the master, whose name was Matos. They afterwards went on board the sloop and took some plantains and some bunches of bananas.

Q. How were the cannons that you saw mounted?—A. They were mounted on pillars of iron and with armour.

He ended, read it, and ratified its contents and accordingly signed.

(Signed) JUAN CASANAS.

(Signed) HENRIQUE VAN DER HANS.

The Secretary,
(Signed) MARTIN SILVA M.

*Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Directory of Foreign
Exterior Right, Caracas, January 14, 1902.*

This is a faithful copy of the proceeding sent by the Ministry for the Interior.

The Director,
(Signed) MANUEL FOMBONA PALACIO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Vice-Consul Schunk to Mr. Haggard.

(Extract.)

La Guayra, January 16, 1902.

WITH reference to my conversation with you relative to the incident which occurred between the steamer "Ban Righ" and the Venezuelan sloop "Santa Clara" off the village of Machuracuto, on the Venezuelan coast, between Uchire and Carenero, I now have the honour, at your request, to state to you officially the facts of the case as locally reported here by parties well informed.

On the evening of the 5th instant the sloop "Santa Clara" arrived at La Guayra, and next morning it was known that she had met the steamer owned by the revolutionary leader Matos during the night of the 2nd or 3rd instant, and on her being overhauled by it an accident had occurred, in which the sloop lost her bowsprit through a wrong manœuvre on the part of the steamer. On this taking place, the crew of the sloop, through fear of the revolutionists and fright at what they thought might be a serious accident, threw themselves into the water, when the steamer at once put out a boat to save the men, and brought them on board. On the men being reassured, they trafficked with the ship, selling some of the fruit on board the sloop, which had been taken in tow. They sold altogether 1,000 plantains and 100 bunches of bananas.

The Commander of the steamer then indemnified the captain of the sloop to the amount of 150 dollars, American gold, which was very liberal, for this sum was greatly in excess of the damage sustained. The steamer towed the "Santa Clara" from the place of the accident to the Point of Naiguata, near La Guayra, in order to enable it to reach this port without difficulty.

Inclosure 4 in No. 57.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, January 17, 1902.

THE object of this note is not to answer that which your Excellency did me the honour of addressing to me on the 14th instant, but to correct an erroneous statement in the latter.

2. Your Excellency alleges that I have made the statement that this "hostile ship" was dispatched from the ports of Great Britain.

3. I regret that your Excellency should have attributed to me, in an official note,

statements which I not only have not made, but which it would have been impossible for me to make, as the only knowledge which I possess on the subject is that which I have from newspapers, where I have seen, on the contrary, that the "Ban Righ" was equipped in, and subsequently dispatched from, not the Port of London, but that of Antwerp.

4. If this be the case, the "solemn protest of the Venezuelan Government against the unusual fact of the equipping in, and the dispatching from, English ports a ship with the object of injuring Venezuelan commerce and of disturbing, by piratical operations, the tranquillity of the Republic, &c.," can have no sort of application to the present case.

5. Your Excellency would seem to have confounded the fact of the possession by a ship of English papers with its equipment in, and subsequent dispatch from, English ports—two very different things.

6. However, even supposing that the ship had been equipped in, and dispatched from, an English port, I should not enter into the question of the unusual responsibility which, although no declaration of war has been made by Venezuela, nor have the parties in the revolutionary contest been recognized as belligerents, the Venezuelan Government is attributing to His Majesty's Government on the strength of an apparently erroneous allegation; for, as I have already informed your Excellency that I have done with your previous communications, I will lose no time in forwarding this note to His Majesty's Government, who will doubtless give it their best consideration. I will, therefore, only take the opportunity of informing you that, until I have their instructions in the matter, I do not propose to enter into any further correspondence on the subject, but, in view of the circumstances contained in your Excellency's note under reply, that you again call the "Ban Righ" a pirate, and that you speak somewhat enigmatically of the fate which may attend British subjects in case of their being incorporated in her crew if she is seized, I will limit myself to again insisting that, if the crew is captured and any British subjects be found amongst them, they cannot be treated as piratical.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 58.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(Received February 14.)

(Extract.)

Board of Trade, February 14, 1902.

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to state, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that they have received through the Registrar-General of Seamen a report from the Registrar of Shipping at Aberdeen to the effect that the registry of the "Ban Righ" was closed on the 7th instant.

No. 59.

Acting Consul Hudson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 20.)

(Extract.)

Panamá, February 3, 1902.

REFERRING to the telegrams which have passed between your Lordship and myself in regard to the steamer "Ban Righ," renamed the "Libertador," I have the honour to transmit herein to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Barranquilla.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Acting Vice-Consul McDougall to Acting Consul Hudson.

Sir,

Barranquilla, January 16, 1902.

I BEG to state that the owner called to-day and apologized for the "Libertador" showing the British flag. It appears the boat came in without a flag, and asked for the visit. The captain of the port then insisted on a flag, and the owner was afraid to show

a Venezuelan one, would not show a Colombian one, and put up a British one to secure a visit.

I informed him clearly he must not show the British flag, and he distinctly agreed to my instructions, wishing at the same time to make a manifestation verbally that he owned the "Libertador." I told him I would send an account of the said assertion to you.

The ship is still here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. C. McDOUGALL.

No. 60.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 21.)

Sir,

Downing Street, February 20, 1902.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 7th instant, and to previous correspondence, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, inclosing copies of further statements by two members of the crew of the British sloop "Indiana," which was seized by the Venezuelan authorities in December last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Chamberlain.

*Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
January 28, 1902.*

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatches of the 31st ultimo and of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, copies of further statements by two members of the crew of the sloop "Indiana." I have forwarded copies of them to the British Minister at Carácas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

Statement by James Nixon.

I WAS a sailor on board the sloop "Indiana" bound for Morawhanna. We arrived at Morawhanna and were discharged; after that we dropped down to a provision grant owned by a Chinese call Mack to discharge some scantling, and thence on Sunday morning dropped down the Spanish Main and stopped at a place called Nedharry's Grant. We slept there on Sunday night and Monday. On Monday at 6 o'clock p.m. the Spanish came and seized the vessel. Four of them came down in a boat and two came on board, one of whom was armed with a rifle. They asked for the captain. I said he was on shore. They sent me for him. I went and called him. He came on board, and they asked him for his pass. He said he hadn't any, because the other General who was there had not given him any, but had told him he could go to the Spanish side to take in cargo, but not to discharge. They said he ought to have a pass, because he had come over the Spanish boundary. The man with the rifle (who had been speaking in English all the time) then said that he seized the boat, and that the captain and sailors were his prisoners. He then commanded the anchor to be raised and the boat to be taken to Amacuru. The captain, and myself, and Chas. Grant, the other sailor with the four Spaniards, went down in the boat to Amacuru. On the Tuesday night before we got to Amacuru the captain took a corial and escaped. On Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock we arrived at Amacuru. We were on board in the river for eleven days, with a sentry always posted over us. On

Saturday the 4th January the sentry who had been on shore told us that the General was going to send us in the boat to Bolivar next day. On the 5th we left Amacuru for Bolivar, with the sentry in charge of the boat. We were working the boat. The sentry threatened to shoot me if I did not work quicker, telling me that, as we were in Spanish territory, he could do whatever he liked with me. That same night myself and Grant took a boat which we were towing and escaped while the sentry was sleeping. We were near Bolivar when we left the "Indiana." We sailed down the Orinoco in the small boat and got to Trinidad. I reported myself to the Warden of the first port we arrived at, and he took us before the Magistrate, who allowed us 20 cents a-day until we could be sent to Port of Spain. Three days after we went and reported to the Harbour-master, who sent us to the Government Office. We saw the Governor, who gave us a free pass to Demerara and a 1s. each after we had told him our story. He sent us by the boat that arrived here at 11 A.M. this morning, I don't know the name of the boat. I did not see the captain escape, but I missed him about an hour after I had last seen him and also missed the corial.

(Signed) JAMES NIXON, his X mark.

Witnesses to mark:

(Signed) CLAUDE W. DUNCAN, S.I.
P. C. 1139, J. ABRAMS.

Taken by me, this 17th day of January, 1902.

(Signed) CLAUDE W. DUNCAN, S.I.

Inclosure 3 in No. 60.

Statement by Charles Grant.

I AM an aboriginal Indian and am employed as a sailor by Jardine, who keeps a stall in the Stabroek Market, Georgetown. The vessel is a sloop of about 14 tons burthen. The captain's name is Aaron Barton, and the other sailor's name is James Nixon; three in all. We carried provisions from Georgetown to Morawhanna, and returned to Georgetown with corn, the property of people living on Venezuelan territory on the Barima River.

I know the line which separates British from Venezuelan territory. About a mile from the line on the Venezuelan side there is a Spanish flag flying. On or about the 15th December we entered Venezuelan territory and passed the flag about 2 miles. The boat was empty and lying at anchor. We had delivered to their owners a number of barrels in which they had sent corn to Georgetown on our last trip. On Saturday a boat which came from the direction of Amacuru pulled up alongside. There were four men on board; three were white and one black. The black man acted as interpreter. We were told that one of the men was a General, one a policeman, and the third the Governor's Secretary. We were asked if we had carried any provisions from the English side. We said no. Then they said that they would shoot us before 6 P.M. if we had not told them the truth. We returned to English territory followed by the Venezuelans. Our captain was not with us.

On the following Monday we returned to the same place to take on a cargo of corn. While lying at anchor the Venezuelan boat with the General and his companion came alongside. Our captain was on shore. The General asked for the captain. When the captain came the General asked him for his passport. The captain said he had none. The General then took charge of our sloop and took us and it on the Amacuru.

On Wednesday night, while we were anchored a short distance from Amacuru, the captain escaped in the General's small boat. I have not seen our captain since. We were detained at Amacuru for a fortnight on our own boat. An armed sentry was always in charge. The General told us through the interpreter that they proposed sending us to Bolivar to use us in the war. We always had the freedom of the sloop. We were allowed to visit the town daily, but at such times were in charge of an armed sentry. We were, on the whole, well fed and treated. We felt we were under arrest, and would not be allowed to return to British territory. When they first took charge of the boat they said that it would be returned to its owner, and that that they would take us to the Spanish Consul at Bolivar and give evidence why they arrested us and seized the sloop.

On Saturday, the 28th December, 1901, the sentry told us to make preparations to go to the war at Bolivar on the following day. That night the sentry fell asleep, and at about 12 midnight we escaped in a small boat belonging to the General.

The General was a tall white man, about 5 ft. 11 in., dark complexion, hooked nose, dark full whiskers and moustache, wore white tunic and trousers, and carried a sword. I never saw him before those dates, and did not know or hear his name.

The policeman was also a white man, about 5 ft. 6 in. high, wore black side whiskers and moustache, slight build, dressed in blue trousers, no jacket, and was bare foot. He carried a Winchester rifle.

The Government Secretary was a white man 5 ft. 5 in. high, slight make, wore dark side whiskers and moustache; was not armed; dressed in brown tweed trousers and jacket, and wore a straw hat. He wore white shoes.

We arrived at a village, named Cedros, in Trinidad, on the Friday following our escape. We reported ourselves to the Warden, Mr. Allcock. He took us on the following day to the Magistrate. He sent to the Harbour-master, Port of Spain, who took us to the Governor. The Government Secretary inquired into our case, and paid our passage back to Georgetown. We arrived at Georgetown this morning by the steam-ship.

The day following our arrival at Amacuru we were taken before a white man, whom we were told was the Governor of Amacuru. The interview was in an office at a private house. He asked us if we had brought any goods from the English to the Venezuelan territory. We said no, but that we had brought empty barrels. He said the captain was wrong to have crossed the boundary without a passport. After we left the Governor's, the interpreter told us that the Governor told the General that he had acted wrongly in seizing our boat, to which the General replied that if his mother got out of her grave the boat would not be returned.

(Signed) CHARLES GRANT, his X mark.

Witness,

(Signed) Lepl. 1163.

Georgetown, January 17, 1902.

No. 61.

Acting Consul Hudson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 27.)

My Lord,

Panamá, February 10, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 3rd instant in reference to the steam-ship "Libertador," formerly the "Ban Righ," I have the honour to report to your Lordship the information given to Commander Cooper-Key, of His Majesty's ship "Psyche," and myself on board of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steam-ship "Atrato" at Colon by a Mr. Rudolph de Paula, a passenger bound for England, and who joined the ship at Cartagena.

This gentleman stated that he was the late owner of the steamer "Ban Righ," that he had purchased her on behalf of the Colombian Government, and that the purchase by them from him was not completed until after the ship's arrival at Martinique, where the balance of the purchase-money was handed to him. That he had been instructed by the Colombian Government when he was at Antwerp—the port of call of the vessel after leaving England—to transfer the vessel to M. Matos upon the completion of the purchase by them.

According to Mr. de Paula's statement, the vessel arrived at Martinique on the 30th December last, and remained until the evening of the 1st January. Whilst there the crew on board from England were paid off, with the exception of one or two, including the master, and some difficulty was experienced in obtaining another crew for the ship, and Mr. de Paula stated privately that the local authorities at Martinique, who are assisting the Venezuelan insurgents, lent their aid in obtaining men.

The transfer of the vessel was made the following day, 2nd January, at sea by bill of sale from De Paula to Matos, which transaction was reported by Mr. de Paula from Savanilla, the first port of call, to the Registrar at Aberdeen. The British register, I understand, has been retained on board. The reason given by Mr. de Paula for the transfer being made at sea and not at Martinique is, that there was no time at the latter place and too much confusion on board.

There appears to have been no excuse for hoisting the British ensign at Savanilla, the reason given being that Matos feared to hoist either the Colombian or Venezuelan flag, because he was uncertain whether the Colombian Government or Colombian insurgents were in possession of the port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD F. HUDSON

No. 62.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 12.)

My Lord, *Caracas, February 23, 1902.*
THE Dutch Chargé d'Affaires informs me that the "Libertador" has been lately in harbour in Curaçao, though not in the main harbour.
It would have been impossible for her to do this had her papers—presumably Colombian—not been in perfect order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 63.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 12.)

Sir, *Downing Street, March 12, 1902.*
I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a further telegram which has been received from the Governor of the Windward Islands, relating to the visit of the "Bolivar" (*alias* "Ban Righ" and "Libertador") to St. Lucia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Governor Sir R. Llewelyn to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic.) *[Received March 11, 1902.]*
INFORMATION received that "Bolivar" flew Colombian national flag proceeding into harbour and on departure.

No. 64.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 25.)

Sir, *Downing Street, March 25, 1902.*
WITH reference to the Colonial Office letter of the 12th instant on the subject of the vessel variously known as the "Ban Righ," "Libertador," and "Bolivar," I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a telegram from the Governor of Trinidad, reporting that the vessel has entered the harbour of Port of Spain, and has been followed by two Venezuelan armed gun-boats.

2. I am to inquire whether any instructions can now be given as to the treatment of this vessel.

3. A copy of this telegram is also being communicated to the Admiralty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic.)

[Received March 24, 1902.]

REFERRING to my telegram of 4th March, "Ban Righ," Colombian Government ship of war, entered here yesterday morning, later followed by two Venezuelan Government armed gun-boats. His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable" here, and I beg to urge that she should remain in the Colony.

No. 65.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 26.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, March 26, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Secretary of State that a telegram, of which the following is a copy, has been received from the Commander-in-chief on the North American and West Indies Station :—

"Colombian man-of-war 'Bolivar,' late 'Ban Righ,' arrived Trinidad 23rd March; man-of-war's flag; commission from Colombian Republic, signed by Juan Tobar, General."

No. 66.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 26, 1902.

AS the "Bolivar" is stated to be now flying the Colombian national flag, and, ostensibly at least, is a man-of-war of that State, His Majesty's Government are not in a position properly to take any action against her. It would be an act of war against Colombia to do so if she is a Colombian public vessel.

His Majesty's Government are under no liability for any depredation that she may commit, nor can Venezuela properly put forward any charge of negligence in view of the circumstances in which the vessel was permitted to leave this country. If the British flag has been used since the transfer effected at Martinique, it was a wrongful act, no responsibility for which attaches to His Majesty's Government.

The vessel will not, however, be allowed to make any British port a base of hostile operations against Venezuela, and the Governor of Trinidad has consequently been instructed to refuse her permission to coal, and to request her at once to leave Port of Spain.

No. 67.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, March 3, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a note respecting the case of the "Ban Righ," which I have received from General Pachano.

I have acknowledged the receipt of this note.

Inclosure in No. 67.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, February 28, 1902.

YOUR Excellency's note of the 14th has convinced the Government that all discussion on the question of doctrine or law on the subject of the "Ban Righ" ("Liber-

tador") will have useless and sterile results, since you appear to have resolved to establish between your own opinion and the facts brought forward by the Republic, a connection openly opposed to what the cordial relations of friendship existing between England and Venezuela would suggest or advise. *

This is the situation of affairs :—

Towards the end of last year a ship with an English flag, and provided with British papers, left the waters of the United Kingdom, since which time a person who said that he was chief of a certain revolutionary movement, declared himself in rebellion against the Venezuelan Government and the institutions of the Republic. The ship having been declared a pirate by the Government of the nation against which it began to perpetrate acts contrary to maritime international law, your Excellency tried, in a conference with me, to take exception to that declaration, and even went so far as to say in one of your notes, that of the 3rd January, that on this occasion you had warned "the Venezuelan Government in the most friendly, but at the same time in the most serious, manner to avoid any infraction of international law with reference to British life and property in the case of the capture of the 'Ban Righ.'" At the same time you declared that your Government had approved your Excellency's language in the conversation held with me which I have just recorded.

Vain were the proofs which the Government presented of the manifest infringement of the British laws even by the insurgent ship; vain the diligence with which the conduct observed by England herself on former occasions was traced out; vain the requests and protests presented by the Government in the name of the injured country. For all explanation, your Excellency said finally in your note of the 24th January, when the ship had already committed depredatory acts, and had disembarked secretly on the shores of the Republic armed expeditions in order to stir up war in the interior, that its dispatch from English ports had only been for the Colombian Government. The presentation of this fact lent more gravity to the occurrence. The ship's fault was greater. The responsibility of the crew, even with regard to British law, became more flagrant. And your Excellency, nevertheless, confines yourself to saying, in your note of the 6th instant, in order to free the authorities of the United Kingdom from all responsibility, that "the ship's career, subsequent to its start, was not a matter of interest for His Majesty's Government."

Without change of papers, which it could not do, and with successive change of flag, name, and destination, the steamer "Ban Righ" ("Libertador") continued its acts of depredation in the waters and on the coast of Venezuela.

On board, the chief of the rebellion in question continued issuing Proclamations of war and revolutionary communications, one of which, published in "El Imparcial" of Curaçao, and in other papers of the island, spoke of the complete destruction of a Venezuelan ship (that called the "Crespo") by the guns of the same rebel steamer; add to this fact, as a new proof of the culpability of the "Ban Righ," that of her having fired on Cumarebo, and committed serious ravages on the population.

Amongst the evident proofs which the Government has of the hostility exercised against the Republic by the ship which left British ports with an English flag, are the autograph letters themselves, written from the ship by the chief of the rebellion—letters which incite to sedition in the interior of the Republic—in combined or simultaneous action with the same pirate ship.

The state of things produced by the presence of the "Ban Righ" in Venezuelan waters cannot but affect in a very direct manner the responsibility of those who gave the ship the opportunity of arriving unhindered on the theatre of its insurrectionary plans. To deny all responsibility when such responsibility is proved, amounts up to a certain point to not recognizing in the Government the faculty of judging what constitutes an injury to themselves, a right which they possess, and which is clearly defined.

His Excellency the President does not, therefore, think that such a situation can exist, and much less can he admit your Excellency's opinion that the thing is a "chose jugée." With regard to this he has given me orders to express very respectfully to your Excellency that he awaits the result of the requests relative to the "Ban Righ" in order to be able, free from every unfortunate impression, to continue considering with your Excellency, on bases of mutual cordiality, the other matters which reciprocally concern the Venezuelan Government and the Legation of Great Britain.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) J. R. PACHANO.

No. 68.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord,

Caracas, March 7, 1902.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 31st January, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the receipt of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana complaining of the seizure of the "Indiana," I addressed a representation to the Venezuelan Government on the subject, giving all the details of the case.

Not having received a reply to this communication, and having received further evidence on the matter from Sir James Swettenham, I addressed another note to the Venezuelan Government on the matter. I at the same time requested His Majesty's Consul at Bolivar to endeavour to ascertain the circumstances connected with this matter, and to furnish the information direct to his Excellency as well as to myself.

I subsequently received a reply from the Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that my notes had been sent to the Minister for the Interior for inquiry into, and report to be made on, the subject as soon as possible. That report has not yet reached me, but Mr. de Lemos has sent me his to his Excellency, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, which would seem to indicate the probable result of the inquiry. When it reaches me, I will lose no time in forwarding it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Consul de Lemos to Governor Sir J. Swettenham.

Sir,

Ciudad Bolivar, February 25, 1902.

I AM requested by His Majesty's Minister at Caracas to inquire into the seizure of the colonial British-owned sloop "Indiana" in the Barima River on the 16th December, and forward the information direct to your Excellency.

On inquiry I find that, according to the sworn statement made before the Fiscal Court of this city on the 27th January by General Luis Felipe Rojas Fernandez, Government Secretary of the Amacuro Territory, the following occurred:—

On the 16th December the said Rojas Fernandez met in Venezuelan waters of the Barima River, about 14 miles from the British boundary, a sloop which, without flag or papers of any kind, lay anchored in front of a house and a garden.

He instituted inquiries, and found that the captain was on shore, that the name of the vessel was the "Indiana," and that she had come with a cargo of merchandise, which had been transhipped on the boundary in small boats, to be introduced into the Amacuro Territory; that later on he saw the captain, who confirmed this, and stated that this was the fourth voyage he had made from Demerara.

He then arrested the vessel and took her to the port of San José d'Amacuro; the captain escaped in a small dug-out.

The vessel should then have been brought up to Ciudad Bolivar, but on the 28th December a violent hurricane carried the sloop from her anchorage at San José d'Amacuro on to the Sacupana Bar at the mouth of the river.

Efforts were made to save her, but without avail.

According to reports received from the local Indians, the crew left the vessel in her boat for Trinidad, abandoning the vessel, and carrying off what could be moved.

The parties who accompanied the Government Secretary were Captain Firmin Alvarez, a black man called Alfredo, and a policeman named Margarita.

Here ends the declaration of General Rojas Fernandez, and follow declarations of the parties named as accompanying him, saying everything is as stated by Fernandez.

It is to be observed that there is no counter-declaration by the captain and crew, who should have been heard; and, further, that apparently no contraband goods were found on board the vessel, while it seems strange that the captain of the sloop should accuse himself of smuggling.

No further action can be taken in the matter here, as the authorities of the Amacuro Territory depend direct from the Caracas Government.

With reference to the alleged rape on an Indian, it is impossible to obtain evidence here, but rumours of something having occurred seem to be current.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DE LEMOS.

No. 69.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 29.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 29, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram dated the 28th March, from the Commander-in-chief, North America, respecting the "Bolivar" (late "Ban Righ").

A copy has also been sent to the Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bermuda, March 28, 1902.

"INDEFATIGABLE" reports "Bolivar" machinery damaged; will be disabled probably two months.

No. 70.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Welby.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, April 2, 1902.

THE Governor of Trinidad reports that a vessel, now named the "Bolivar" and formerly the "Ban Righ," is lying disabled at Port of Spain, flying the Colombian national flag and holding a commission from the Colombian Government.

She is understood to have committed various acts of hostility against Venezuela, although no state of war exists between those two Republics.

The vessel cannot be allowed to refit in a British port, unless and until the Colombian Government give satisfactory assurances (1) that she is a Colombian public vessel; (2) that they will not permit her to engage in future in any such irregular hostilities against Venezuela, as are alleged to have occurred.

Inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs accordingly.

No. 71.

Señor Ponce to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 4.)

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Colombian Legation, April 3, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have just received a telegram from M. Becerra, Colombian Consul at Port of Spain, in which he asks this Legation to support a request that he has made to his Excellency the Governor of Trinidad, that certain arms, &c., destined for the Colombian port of Cartagena, may be dispatched from the Colony with the least possible delay.

While respectfully soliciting from His Majesty's Government a favourable consideration of Consul Becerra's request, I have, &c.

(Signed) IGNACIO GUTIERREZ PONCE.

No. 72.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, April 5, 1902.

THE "Ban Righ" being at present at Trinidad disabled, instructions have been sent to His Majesty's Minister at Bogotá, to inform the Colombian Government that until satisfactory assurances are received on the following points:—

1. That she is a public vessel belonging to the United States of Colombia; and
2. That she will not be permitted to engage in future in any irregular hostilities against Venezuela, such as are alleged to have occurred—

permission cannot be given for her to refit.

A request has been received from the Colombian Consul at Port of Spain, asking that rifles and ammunition may be sent to Cartagena in a British vessel. His Majesty's Government must await the result of the communications with the Colombian Government on points above noted, and cannot give the required permission. The Governor of Trinidad will be informed accordingly.

No. 73.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 9.)

Sir,

Downing Street, April 8, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying telegram which Mr. Chamberlain has addressed to the Governor of Trinidad for his guidance in the matter.

I am, &c.

· (Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Mr. Chamberlain to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

(Telegraphic.)

Downing Street, April 7, 1902.

IT will be necessary to await result of communication with Colombian Government, and, in meantime, permission should not be granted to forward ammunition and rifles by British vessel to Cartagena. In no case is it possible to entertain proposal that "Bolivar" should be towed to nearest Colombian port by one of His Majesty's ships.

No. 74.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 10.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, March 14, 1902.

IN my despatch of the 3rd instant I had the honour of inclosing a copy of a note from the Venezuelan Government, in the final paragraph of which I am informed that, as long as the situation created by the dispatch of the vessel continues, the Venezuelan Government cannot discuss any other matter.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs sent me to-day the note, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

The statement at the close of the first is also, your Lordship will see, repeated in the paragraph closing this note, the only difference being that the wording would seem to eliminate the idea which might have been suggested in the former of any intention of a practical suspension of relations between the Government and this Legation.

Inclosure in No. 74.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 13, 1902.

TO the proofs accumulated by the Government, and which increase day by day with reference to the damages which the Republic has sustained from the dispatch of the "Ban Righ" from English ports, his Excellency the President has now decided to add those of the indifference displayed by the authorities of Trinidad as to the actions of the steamer in question, and the still graver proofs of the toleration with which they have seen the preparation in the very territory of the island, and the public and notorious exit thence of expeditions in arms against the peace of the Venezuelan States nearest to the Colony. Your Excellency will not have forgotten the earnestness with which the co-operation of the Legation was asked some time back to take measures against the Island of Trinidad being made the centre of plans directed against the public tranquillity in Venezuela, and although at that time all the goodwill which was to be expected, and which had just been spontaneously shown in conformity with international law by another British Magistrate (his Excellency the Governor of Granada), was not evinced by either your Excellency or the new Governor of Trinidad, the Government had never supposed that indifference as to the tranquillity of a friendly people would be carried to such a pitch by His Majesty's Agents that it would actually attract the attention of the inhabitants of Trinidad, and would form the subject of censure on the part of local press of the Colony.

The Government of the Republic, without relying on any other proof than that which it possesses directly, finds that the ship dispatched from England, arriving in these seas with a British flag and provided with fighting materials, has been existing for more than two months as a constant injury to Venezuelan commerce, and, after having destroyed national ships and fired grape-shot on open and defenceless places, received and took openly from the territory of that island (or, which is the same, from one of the dominions of His Majesty) reinforcements of men and arms to continue in its work of destruction. Such a state of things is all the more flagrant, as it is clearly opposed to the character of the friendly relations which Venezuela cultivates with Great Britain.

As the simple application of certain laws of the Kingdom appeared to be enough to prevent these injuries, which related as much to the actions of the steamer as to the expeditions from Trinidad, the Government, in thus considering it, and observing that there follows from this circumstance an omission of the most elementary duties of good friendship, protests against it, and reserves to itself the right of claiming damages on account of the injuries which have been sustained by the national interests owing to this omission.

At the same time they repeat their proposal, which has already been communicated, to defer the consideration of every matter that may be reciprocally important to the two countries until the time when such an irregular situation (as considered from the point of view of public right), and one, too, so opposed above all to the spirit of cordiality which dominates the relations of Venezuela with Great Britain, shall cease or be compensated for.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) J. R. PACHANO.

No. 75.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 11.)

Sir,

Downing Street, April 11, 1902.

WITH reference to the letter of the 8th instant from this Department on the subject of the steam-ship "Ban Righ" or "Bolivar," I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying telegram relating to this vessel, which has been received from the Governor of Trinidad.

2. I am to inquire what instructions should be sent to Sir Alfred Moloney for his guidance, in the event of a Colombian war-vessel arriving at Trinidad, in order to carry

out either of the operations suggested by the Colombian Consul. It will be observed that Sir Alfred Moloney asks for an early reply.

3. I am at the same time to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's consideration, two despatches with inclosures from the Governor which also relate to this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic.)

[Received April 10, 1902.]

I AM informed by the Colombian Consul that he has telegraphed for a Colombian man-of-war to tow the "Ban Righ" from Port of Spain or to remove the arms from her.

Please inform me early whether there is any objection to either course, with or without assurance from Colombian Government, that neither vessel nor arms will be used against Venezuela.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Extract.)

Government House, Trinidad, March 26, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that on the morning of the 23rd instant the "Ban Righ" or "Libertador," now called the "Bolívar," came to an anchor in this harbour. I inclose a copy of the Harbour-master's report.

I immediately ordered the "Bolívar" to be quarantined pending reports from the Collector of Customs and the Health Officer. These officers, as well as the Harbour-master, reported everything to be in order. I also received a letter from Captain Campbell, of His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable," the Senior Naval Officer on the Station, who also boarded the "Bolívar" and examined her papers. He forwarded to me a copy of the commission of the "Bolívar," a translation of which I inclose. Mr. Becerra, Colombian Consul at Port of Spain, certifies that the commission is issued by the proper Colombian official, and also that he has been advised by his Government that the "Bolívar" is a Colombian ship of war. I thereupon directed pratique to be granted.

I inclose copy of a Minute by the Harbour-master, reporting that the Venezuelan gun-boats, three in number, in the harbour, had placed themselves in a threatening attitude near the "Bolívar." Such "shadowing" I viewed as almost amounting to a breach of the hospitality of the port. On the advice of Captain Campbell, I ordered them to move to the other side of His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable."

I also inclose copies of a letter I have received from General Ybarra, Commander-in-chief of the Venezuelan navy, protesting against the action of this Government, and of my reply to him.

I inclose a copy of a letter just received from Captain Campbell, of His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable," reporting patrolling in the harbour on the part of the Venezuelan gun-boats, and also that four more Venezuelan gun-boats are expected there shortly.

Inclosure 3 in No. 75.

Harbour-master to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

IN forwarding the inclosed return of the arrival of the Colombian gun-boat "Bolívar" (formerly "Ban Righ"), I have the honour to report that this vessel was admitted to pratique at about 7.30 this morning. She brought a clean bill of health from St. Lucia, dated the 28th ultimo, and reported that since that date she had been cruising.

Acting upon telephonic instructions received at about 11 A.M., I at once went off with the Health Officer of Shipping, and after an examination of her papers, viz.: a certificate by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Baranquilla of her transfer from the British to the Colombian flag on the 16th January, and her register as a Colombian gun-boat, dated the 25th January, 1902. She was, in accordance with instructions, placed in quarantine; from inquiries made, I ascertained that no person had left the vessel, nor had any communication been made with the shore up to that time.

I may add, that so far as I am able to judge, her papers are in perfect order.

The "Bolivar" was subsequently released from quarantine by me, in compliance with your instructions received at 2.40 P.M. by telephone.

(Signed) J. B. SAUNDERS.

March 23, 1901.

Inclosure 4 in No. 75.

Captain Campbell to Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Sir,

"Indefatigable," at Trinidad, March 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a ship flying the Colombian man-of-war flag arrived this morning about 7 A.M. She received pratique from the Harbour authorities about 8.30 A.M., and was shortly after boarded by the officer of the guard from this ship; who reported as follows:—

"Colombian man-of-war "Bolivar," screw-steamer, 992 tons; having an armament of two 65 millim. guns, one on poop and one on forecastle. Last port of departure, St. Lucia; date of sailing, the 21st March; number of days out, one and a-half." After receiving the report, I went on board with Lieutenant Strickland, who reads a little Spanish, and I beg to report as follows:—

On arrival on board I was received by an officer, who spoke English. He presented me to General Eduardo Ortega, whom he described as being in command. I explained that under the circumstances I must request to see her papers, and was shown the following:—

1. A parchment paper, copy of which I inclose.

2. A letter from the Vice-Consul at Barranquilla, E. McDougall, to General Matos.

He also informed me he expected to remain a few days in port; one of his boilers had burst and required repair; that he was bound for a Colombian port. He carried 150 tons of coal in bunkers, and 300 tons in the hold. At the same time, the Boarding Officer of the port informed me he had been told that she was bound for St. Lucia and Martinique.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. L. CAMPBELL,
Captain and Senior Naval Officer.

Inclosure 5 in No. 75.

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

(Translation.)

From Head Office of the Army.

Juan B. Tobar, General-in-chief of the Atlantic Forces, to all whom it may concern:

Knoweth:

BY virtue of the 3rd Article of the Army Decree of the 19th October, 1901, I concede a military licence of navigation to the gun-boat "Bolivar," registering 902 tons, whose Commandant is General Eduardo Ortega, in which capacity I pray that the civil and military authorities of the Republic, foreign Consular Agents, and vessels and authorities of friendly Governments will, so long as he conforms to the rights and privileges to which they are entitled, permit him to exercise his functions with liberty.

And I offer in the name of the Republic to reciprocate the same should occasion arise.

Given, signed, and sealed with the seal of the Chief Head Office, and countersigned by the Chief of the State, Major-General in Baranquilla, on the 25th January 1902.

(Signed) JUAN B. TOBAR.
(Countersigned) RAMON AMAJA,
Major-General-in-chief of the State.

Inclosure 6 in No. 75.

Minute by the Harbour-master to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

IN forwarding the inclosed return, I have the honour to report that this vessel arrived during the night, and is at present anchored in the usual berth taken up by these vessels near the St. Vincent jetty.

By instructions from his Excellency the Governor, the Venezuelan gun-boats "Miranda," and "Zumbador" were moved from the position in which they anchored on their arrival yesterday evening, near the Colombian gun-boat "Bolivar," to the northward, having His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable" between them and that vessel.

I have also to report that at midnight, when I was off seeing that the "Miranda" and "Zumbador" were anchored in the position I had ordered them to take up, I found that the guardacosta "Viente tres de Mayo" had moved from her berth to a position near to the "Bolivar." I at once ordered the Captain to place her near the other two, inside and near the "Indefatigable," and I remained there until this was carried out.

I understand that the Venezuelan gun-boats "Restaurador" and "Bolivar" are expected shortly, and I shall be obliged if you will inform me whether I am to direct these vessels to anchor with the others, or whether they are to be permitted to take up their usual berths inshore.

(Signed) J. B. SAUNDERS.

March 24, 1902.

Inclosure 7 in No. 75.

General Ybarra to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

*On board Gun-boat "Zumbador," at Trinidad,
March 24, 1902.*

Sir,

YESTERDAY afternoon two vessels of the Venezuelan navy arrived here from Carupano and anchored near His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable," where they were boarded by the Harbour-master, and given pratique.

About 9 A.M., after permission had been obtained and arrangements made for coaling these vessels, the Harbour-master went on board and ordered the ships to hoist anchor and get behind the "Indefatigable." At the request of the Commanders, and with great reluctance, he allowed the ships to steam further inside the harbour for the purpose of picking up the coal lighters, it being clearly understood that the ships would steam out immediately after to the anchorage pointed out to them by him.

I understand that an hour later, just as the lighters had been made fast to the ships, they were again visited by the Harbour-master, and peremptorily ordered out to the anchorage above referred to. Seeing that the ships of the Venezuelan navy under my command have always rigidly respected the laws and regulations of this port, I would respectfully request that his Excellency, the Governor would institute an inquiry into the circumstances above referred to, and would at the same time advise me as to whether the Harbour-master was empowered to act as he did towards the war-ships of a friendly nation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. YBARRA,
Commander-in-chief of the Venezuelan Navy.

Inclosure 8 in No. 75.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to General Ybarra.

Sir,

Trinidad, March 25, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date in which you ask me to advise you as to whether the Harbour-master is empowered to order vessels of the Venezuelan navy to change their anchorage in the harbour of Port of Spain.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to inform you that by the law of this Colony it is within the province of the Harbour-master to regulate the anchorage of all vessels within the harbour of which he has charge, and that on the occasion in question he did not exceed his powers.

Instructions have been issued that the vessels under your command will be at liberty to resume if you so desire, the berths they have been allowed to occupy in the past to the west of St. Vincent jetty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 9 in No. 75.

Captain Campbell to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

Sir,

"Indefatigable," at Trinidad, March 25, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that during last night a boat from one of the Venezuelan gun-boats was continually patrolling round the Colombian gun-boat "Bolivar," which boat was periodically relieved. At 2 A.M. I sent an officer to request the Venezuelan boat to return to its ship, and this morning went on board the Venezuelan gun-boat "Zumbador," where I met General Ybarra and requested that his boats should not patrol our waters and around the Colombian gun-boat "Bolivar." He protested against my requesting that his boats should not make free use of our waters. He also asked me where his gun-boats should anchor, as he expected four shortly to arrive. I referred him to the harbour authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. L. CAMPBELL, R.N.,
Senior Naval Officer.

No. 76.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Señor Ponce.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 11, 1902.

WITH reference to your note of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that, according to reports received by His Majesty's Government, the "Bolivar," formerly "Ban Righ," which flies the Colombian national flag, and has a commission from the Colombian Government, is now lying disabled at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

It is understood that the vessel has committed acts of hostility against Venezuela, although no state of war exists between that Republic and Colombia.

Mr. Welby, His Majesty's Minister at Bogotá, has accordingly been instructed by telegraph to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the "Bolivar" cannot be allowed to refit in a British port unless and until satisfactory assurances have been received from the Colombian Government—(1) that she is a Colombian public vessel, and (2) that she will not in future be permitted to engage in any irregular hostilities against Venezuela such as are alleged to have occurred.

The result of this communication must be awaited, and, in the meantime, His Majesty's Government are unable to consider the request conveyed in your letter of the 3rd instant, that the arms and ammunition destined for Cartagena, and now lying at Trinidad, may be dispatched to their destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 77.

Señor Ponce to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 15.)

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Colombian Legation, April 14, 1902.

I HAD the honour to-day to receive your Excellency's note of the 11th instant on the subject of the Petition of Señor Becerra, Colombian Consul at Port of Spain, Trinidad, regarding the dispatch of certain arms and munitions of war for Cartagena, which, at the said Señor Becerra's request, I had the honour to forward to your Excellency in my communication of the 3rd ultimo.

By the next post I shall transmit both to the Colombian Minister for Foreign Affairs and to Consul Becerra the contents of your Excellency's note, and I have no doubt that my Government will proceed to an immediate investigation of the facts referred to in the information received by His Majesty's Government in order to take the necessary steps.

I have, &c.

(Signed) IGNACIO GUTIÉRREZ PONCE.

No. 78.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 15, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state that, in his Lordship's opinion, there is no objection to permitting a Colombian man-of-war to remove the "Bolivar" in tow, or to take on board the arms and ammunition which are now on that vessel. The first of these courses would be preferable, but it is not necessary to insist on assurances being given with regard to either.

I am to suggest, for Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's consideration, that instructions in this sense should be given to Sir A. Moloney.

No. 79.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 18.)

(Extract.)

Downing Street, April 17, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying telegram which Mr. Chamberlain has addressed to the Governor of Trinidad.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Mr. Chamberlain to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

(Telegraphic.)

Downing Street, April 16, 1902.

NO objection should be taken to Colombian man-of-war removing vessel referred to in tow, or taking on board arms and ammunition now on that vessel. Of the two courses the former would be much preferable, but no assurances of any kind need be insisted on with regard to either.

No. 80.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, March 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a note in which the Venezuelan Government protest "with all the energy which the case deserves against the reception by the Colonial authorities into the harbour of Port of Spain of the insurgent steam-boat "Ban Righ" ("Libertador").

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 24, 1902.

THE Government has just learnt that the insurgent steamer "Ban Righ" ("Libertador") has anchored in Port of Spain, without any objection or difficulty on the part of the colonial authorities. Venezuela protested at the time to your Legation on account of the acts of hostility that the ship in question had perpetrated on the coast of the Republic, against the Government and to the injury of general security. She protested later against the attitude of indifference or tolerance shown by the Governor of Trinidad in the face of the revolutionary movements prepared in the territory of the island against authorities constitutionally established in the Eastern States. To-day, in conformity with the special direction of the Constitutional President of the Republic, I put forward in this note, with all the energy that the case calls for, a new protest against the unusual fact of the colonial authorities, after the measures taken towards the Legation, having harboured the steamer without taking those measures into consideration in order to judge with reference to the course of events.

Whilst begging you earnestly to be good enough to note this new protest of the Government of the Republic, and of the grave circumstance that calls it forth, I present, &c.

(Signed) J. R. PACHANO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 25, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of yesterday's date, protesting against the presence at Port of Spain, without any objection on the part of the colonial authorities, of the "insurgent steam-boat 'Ban Righ' ('Libertador')." "

I have lost no time in reporting this to His Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD..

Inclosure 3 in No. 80.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 25, 1902.

WITH reference to your Excellency's note of yesterday's date, I have the honour to bring to the knowledge of the Venezuelan Government that the Governor of Trinidad has reported to me that on the 23rd instant the Colombian man-of-war "Bolivar," late the "Ban Righ," had arrived at Port of Spain.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 81.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord,

Caracas, March 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a despatch from the Governor of Trinidad, which shows, by reports from the Collector of Customs and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, that there does not appear to be any foundation for a statement made by the Government of Venezuela that armed expeditions against the peace of that country had been dispatched from Trinidad with the tolerance of the Governor.

I have informed General Pachano accordingly, and have assured his Excellency

that the police of Trinidad had received instructions to keep every place frequented by Venezuelans under observation, and that the water police, who patrolled from 6 P.M. to 6 A.M., had no knowledge of any armed parties having left Trinidad for Venezuela or any other place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 82.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

(Extract.)

Cardcas, April 1, 1902.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 26th ultimo, I immediately addressed to the Venezuelan Government the note, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I received the reply, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, asking by what process and since what date the vessel had entered the Colombian navy.

I have the honour to inclose my reply to this note, stating that I had no information on the subject.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Cardcas, March 27, 1902.

IN my note of the 24th instant I had the honour of informing your Excellency that I had lost no time in reporting to His Majesty's Government the protest of the Venezuelan Government against the presence at Port of Spain without any objection on the part of the Colonial authorities of the "insurgent steam-boat 'Ban Righ' ('Liberador')." "

I am now instructed by His Majesty's Government to inform that of Venezuela that as it would seem that that ship is now, ostensibly at least, a Colombian man-of-war, and is flying the Colombian national flag, they cannot properly direct any action against her.

Any such action would be an act of war against Colombia if she be a Colombian public vessel.

I am further to state that His Majesty's Government incur no liability for, nor for any depredation committed by, the ship in question. The circumstances, moreover, under which she was allowed to leave England are of such a character that the Venezuelan Government cannot properly put forward any charge of negligence.

If, since her transfer at Martinique, she has made any use of the British flag, this has been simply a wrongful act, for which His Majesty's Government are in no way responsible.

On the other hand, His Majesty's Government will not allow the ship to use a British port as a base of hostile operations against Venezuela, and the Governor of Trinidad has therefore been instructed not to allow her to coal, and to request her to leave the port immediately.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

General Pachano to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 29, 1902.

ON the 25th instant your Excellency informed this Department that you had received news from his Excellency the Governor of Trinidad of the arrival at Port of Spain of the ship "Ban Righ" as a Colombian man-of-war, and with the name of "Bolivar."

On the 27th your Excellency addressed me another note on a similar subject, but in order to be able to consider the rote the Government of Venezuela must know by means of what process and since what date the English ship in question entered the Colombian fleet.

I beg your Excellency most urgently to communicate this information to me promptly, and in the meanwhile I do myself the honour of offering you new proofs of my consideration, &c.

(Signed) J. R. PACHANO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 82.

Mr. Haggard to General Pachano.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, March 31, 1902.

IN your Excellency's note of the 29th instant you inquire by what process and since what date the steam-boat to which your note refers entered into the Colombian service.

In my note of the 27th March I stated that I had been "instructed by His Majesty's Government to inform that of Venezuela that it would seem that that ship is now, ostensibly ('ostensiblemente') at least, a Colombian man-of-war."

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have no further information on this subject than that which has already been communicated to the Venezuelan Government.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 83.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 14.)

Sir,

Downing Street, May 13, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of two despatches, dated the 17th and 24th April, received from the Governor of Trinidad, together with inclosures on the subject of the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul in connection with the dispatch of vessels for Venezuela.

Mr. Chamberlain would be glad to receive the Marquess of Lansdowne's observations on the conduct of Señor Figueredo, and on the propriety of refusing him an exequatur, as recommended by the Governor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

• *Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, April 17, 1902.

IN continuation of the records on the subject of the fees charged by the Consul for Venezuela, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of the correspondence which has recently taken place with regard to the conduct of Señor Figueredo in connection with the dispatch of vessels from this port for Venezuela.

2. A copy of this further correspondence has been forwarded to the British Minister at Caracas.

3. In this connection it is well to remember that His Majesty's exequatur has not yet issued in favour of Señor Figueredo, and the facts reported illustrate that he is not here a *persona grata*, so the question is worthy of consideration whether his conduct and attitude are not such as to justify his removal and restoration to his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Extract.)

Government House, Trinidad, April 24, 1902.

I INVITED Mr. Naysmith to wait upon me at my office, and there he made a statement, of which I inclose a copy. This statement he supplemented by the production of the original clearances, receipts for duty and other documents specified, all signed by Señor Figueredo, and copies of which I have retained, also an order initialled by Señor Figueredo directing the return to him of the triplicate clearance, which documents conclusively bear out Mr. Naysmith's statements.

I further inclose a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Venezuelan Consul (Señor Figueredo) on the advice of the Attorney-General.

In view of the irregular conduct of Señor Figueredo, I think it inadvisable that His Majesty's exequatur should be issued to him.

Inclosure 3 in No. 83.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to Señor Figueredo.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, February 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that his Excellency the Governor has been informed of a communication which you have made to M. Julio C. Lyon to the effect that you will not accept any dispatch of vessels from him, or from any person acting as agent for him or for his house of business.

His Excellency considers this a most unusual course of procedure, and directs me to inquire by what authority you have interfered with the trade of M. Lyon, who is a merchant of this community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 83.

Señor Figueredo to Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Sir,

Trinidad, February 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I am in receipt of yours dated the 15th instant, and I beg to reply as follows:—

It is a fact that by order of my Government, and naturally with their authority, I notified M. Julio C. Lyon that this Consulate will not take notice of any vessels dispatched by him, or by any of his agents. The Consulate of Venezuela is a Venezuelan office, governed by the laws of the country he represents, and by superior orders he receives, and in which it is agreed that M. Julio C. Lyon, although a resident in this island, and in business here, is a Venezuelan, trades with Venezuela, and in Venezuelan vessels.

In the event of M. Lyon presenting himself to dispatch a vessel under a foreign flag, the Undersigned will approach the Harbour-master of this port to inform him that he will not refuse to dispatch such a vessel, but certainly through the intervention of Mr. Lyon, who is not a *persona grata* to my Government.

I hope in this letter I have answered the question you have put to me at the request of his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

Inclosure 5 in No. 83.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to Señor Figueredo.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Trinidad, March 19, 1902.

I AM directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo in answer to the inquiry I had the honour to address to you on the previous 15th, under his direction.

His Excellency is quite alive to, and fully appreciates, the fact that a Consul is not, in respect of his official acts, subject to the control or authority of the Government to which he is accredited and within which he represents his country, and fully understands that any inquiry made to you was in no way an assertion of any claim whatever to such interference.

Whilst it has been and always will be the Governor's desire and intention to respect fully the position of a Consul, at the same time it is well that you should thoroughly understand that his Excellency is not prepared to recognize under any circumstances the right of any Consul to discriminate in his official treatment of merchants, whatever their nationality, by imposing disabilities in any way or direction as regards facilities for obtaining Consular signatures to documents, or as against any vessels, of whatever flag, requiring in their commercial intercourse clearance from the ports of this Colony.

The inquiry addressed to you was one which his Excellency deemed necessary so as to do full justice to the situation, that the position indicated in the previous paragraph should be clearly understood and fully maintained, and, in order that the Governor might find himself able to so deal with it, I was directed to invite from you by what authority you had addressed to M. Lyon your letter of the 28th January last, declining to accept dispatch of vessels from that merchant.

Your answer was to the effect that you did so by order of your Government. May I now ask you to favour me, for the convenience of the Government, with a copy of the letter or the order of the Government of Venezuela in obedience to which you acted in announcing your intention to refuse dispatch in the instance referred to.

Whilst your remark that your proposed prohibition against M. Lyon doing business with Venezuela was not intended to apply to vessels in his care sailing under any but the Venezuelan flag has been noted, I am further to ask whether that distinction is also drawn by order of your Government, as his Excellency the Governor is unaware of and unprepared to recognize any Consular right to refuse arbitrarily to a particular merchant clearance from these ports to vessels sailing under their flag.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 83.

Señor Figueredo to Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Sir,

Trinidad, March 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter, dated the 19th instant, with reference to M. J. C. Lyon; and, in reply, I would ask you kindly to inform his Excellency the Governor that by the first mail I will send to my Government the letter referred to; and with regard to the copy of the official order which I received not to accept in this Consulate the dispatch of vessels by M. J. C. Lyon, as I do not consider myself authorized to furnish copies of documents addressed to me by my Government in my capacity as Consul, I will apply for authority for this, although the request implies a doubt as to the veracity of my word when I first communicated to M. Lyon, and then to his Excellency the Governor, that I acted on the instructions of my Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARLOS B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

Inclosure 7 in No. 83.

Collector of Customs to Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

March 26, 1902.

1. THE Manager of the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company has furnished me with the following documents, which I submit for his Excellency's information:—

(1.) Complaint alleging habitual and undue detention of the Company's steamer "Bolivar;" and

(2.) Extracts from the laws governing Venezuelan Consuls.

2. This Company was British and is now American, and the vessel in question, in compliance with the terms of the Company's engagements with the Venezuelan Government, trades under the flag of that Republic.

(Signed)

R. M. McCARTHY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 83.

Declaration of the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company.

THE hour of the departure of the steamer "Bolivar" is always publicly announced, and is fixed as late as possible for the convenience of local merchants, without exposing the steamer to the risk of losing the tide on the bar of the Macareo Channel. The consequences of missing the tide are a delay of twelve hours in the arrival of the steamer at Ciudad Bolivar, heavy expenses for overtime and Sunday work at Customs and extra labour, and inconvenience to the merchants of that port, who have to rush their correspondence and shipments for the return of the steamer. Such risks are greater at this season of the year, when the Orinoco is at its lowest depth. The present Consul for Venezuela has, except on two special occasions, habitually delayed the steamer's departure, sometimes for more than two hours. The matter has at length become so serious that the Company considers itself justified in breaking the silence it has hitherto maintained, and recording the particulars of the delay in the last dispatch, that of Wednesday, the 19th March instant.

Up to that date it had been the rule of the Company to lodge the dispatch papers with the Consul the day previous to the departure of the "Bolivar," but, finding that the Consul never gave them any attention until after the hour fixed for the departure of the steamer, the custom was discontinued, and the laws of Venezuela governing these matters were carefully complied with. On the occasion mentioned the papers were sent to the Consul at 1 P.M. on the date mentioned, accompanied by a note to the Consul's Secretary reminding him that the hour of departure had been announced for 1:30 P.M. At 2:20 the Company's messenger, who had been instructed to wait for the dispatch, telephoned that the Consul had just returned to this office, and that the papers could not be ready before 3:30. The Manager of the Company's Dispatch Department, Mr. John Wharton, thereupon went over to the Consulate, in company with the purser of the "Bolivar," and protested to the Secretary against the unnecessary delay. He declares, and will give evidence to that effect, that he himself saw that all the papers were ready and only awaiting the Consul's signature—a matter of, at the most, ten minutes. Mr. Wharton thereupon interviewed the Consul himself, and protested to him against the delay, requesting him to consider the expense which such delay caused the Company, and reminding him also of the risk the steamer ran of losing the tide on the bar. The Consul thereupon agreed to give the dispatch for 3 P.M., and Mr. Wharton returned to his office, where he waited until 4:15 P.M., the hour at which the dispatch finally reached the Company. The messenger had been kept waiting the whole time, and declares that he lost not a moment in going from the Consulate to the Company's office.

Although it does not bear directly upon the matter in question, yet it may be desirable to declare that the Company, by its contract with the Venezuelan Government, is declared exempt from payment of all national imports (which include Consular charges); yet, so as never to give cause for any delay in the dispatches, the Company has always paid without demur the Consul's charges. Notwithstanding this, however, the Consul systematically delays the dispatch of the "Bolivar," thereby not only causing injury and expense to the Company, inconvenience to the merchants of Ciudad Bolivar, and, indirectly, to the commerce of this Colony, but by so doing signally fails to observe

the Law of Venezuela which governs such matters. We append the Law in question and a true translation of the same.

The Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company (Limited),
(Signed) T. A. TURNER, *Manager*.

Inclosure 9 in No. 83.

Extract from the "Codigo de Hacienda," Section V.

(Translation.)

CONSULS cannot delay the dispatch of documents presented to them in accordance with this Ordinance, during official hours, without being responsible for any damages incurred by the interested parties owing to such delay.

The official hours for dispatching in the Consulates of Venezuela shall be the same as those of the Public Officers in the place where the Consulates are situated.

Inclosure 10 in No. 83.

Extract from the Penal Code, Section 3, Chapter IV.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 181. Every Government official who, under any pretext whatsoever, whether it be that of silence, obscurity, contradiction, or insufficiency of the requirements of the law, omits or refuses to perform any duty connected with his Department, shall be liable to a fine of from 50 to 1,500 bolivares.

Extract from the Fiscal Code, Law 16, Chapter 1, Section 5.

Article 38. In ports where there are no Consular Agencies of the Republic, the documents required by this Ordinance shall be presented to the Consular Agent of a friendly nation, and in cases where there are none such, or where the latter may not be disposed to certify such documents, then they may be certified by two merchants whose signature shall be witnessed by a Government official.

Article 39. Consuls cannot delay the dispatch of documents presented to them in accordance with this Ordinance, during official hours, without being responsible for any damages incurred by the interested parties owing to such delay.

The official hours for dispatching in the Consulates of Venezuela shall be the same as those of the Public Offices where the Consulates are situated.

The Consul is said to have declared that in refusing to dispatch M. Lyon's vessels, he did so in obedience to direct private instructions from his chief, General Castro. General Castro has no power, either as Dictator or Constitutional President, to refuse to dispatch mercantile vessels. He might do so as Dictator by the issue of a public Decree, but not by private instructions.

Following is the Law on the matter :—

Extract from the Constitution of the United States of Venezuela, Section 3.

(Translation.)

Of the Attributes of the President of the United States of Venezuela.

Article 76. To order the execution of the Laws and Decrees of the National Congress within fifteen days of receiving such Laws, and to take measures for enforcing the compliance and execution of such Laws.

Amongst the Laws referred to are those given above.

Inclosure 11 in No. 83.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to Señor Figueredo

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Trinidad, April 2, 1902.

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to inform you, in continuation of my letter of the 19th ultimo, to which I have as yet had no reply, that the Manager of the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company (Limited) has furnished a statement in which he declares that:—

Full publicity is always given to the hour of departure of the "Bolivar," which is fixed as late as possible for the convenience of merchants, but with due regard to taking the tide on the Macareo Bar, which is a matter of considerable importance, as losing the tide at the Bar causes great inconvenience and expense. The risk is greater at this period of the year owing to the shallowness of the Orinoco. The present Consul for Venezuela has, except of two special occasions, habitually delayed the steamer's departure.

In connection with the delay of the steamer on the 19th March, the Manager of the Company further declares:—

"The Laws of Venezuela were carefully complied with in the preparation and lodging of the papers. They were sent to the Consul at 1 P.M. on the day named accompanied by a note of the hour (1.30) announced for departure. The messenger waited until 2.20, when Mr. Wharton went to the Consulate and saw the Consul, who promised to have papers ready by 3 P.M. They were, however, not received till 4.15."

The declaration concludes by a statement that although by its contract with the Venezuelan Government the Company is exempted from payment of national imports (which include Consular charges), such charges have always been paid without demur.

In connection with the above the Company draws attention to the Penal Code of Venezuela, section 3, Chapter IV. Also the Fiscal Code, Chapter I, section 5. Also the Constitution of the United States of Venezuela, section 3.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 12 in No. 83.

Señor Figueredo to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Port of Spain, April 5, 1902.

IN answer to your letter, which, by your Excellency's order, the Honourable the Colonial Secretary has forwarded to me, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I regret very much that through an error on the part of the agent of the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company, that that gentleman should molest your Excellency's superior attention even to the extent of carrying a complaint to your Excellency which concerns only the Venezuelan Government. If at any time the Undersigned should commit a fault in the discharge of his duties and in connection with the laws of the country that he represents, it is prescribed in those very laws the penalty that his fault deserves, and the authorities therein cited who can and ought to take cognizance of any violation of the law.

The Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company at times fail to fulfil their contract, and also in the regulations in the dispatch of their vessels; nevertheless, it has never yet occurred to the Undersigned to trouble the attention of your Excellency denouncing those faults and the violation committed by the Company. Of these I inform the Venezuelan Government, and I leave them to decide what they think necessary. The accusation of the agent, through the letter of the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, which I am now occupied in answering your Excellency, places me in the position of informing your Excellency of the following particulars. The authorities of Venezuela, with which the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company has relations, detain the leaving of the steam-boats, not only for an hour or two, but for days, whenever it is necessary for the interest of the peace of the country; nevertheless, it has never occurred to the Company to protest nor carry their grievances with such motive before his Excellency the Governor of Trinidad, but on the contrary, submit to the order of the authorities without ever protesting, but to the contrary, flattering the Power. But as the Venezuelan Consul resides in Trinidad, a foreign country, and is a foreigner in it, that this and other Companies show them-

selves strong and take care of their rights, but never of their duty, nor do they lose time in accusing the Consul, and mark him as a violation of the laws, that they are the first ones not to observe.

A copy of your Excellency's letter, which I have answered, likewise this one, I shall forward to my Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

Inclosure 13 in No. 83.

Minute by the Collector of Customs, Trinidad.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

THE Manager of the Orinoco Shipping Company requests me to forward the inclosed letters in continuation of former correspondence. The Consul's letter shows him to be an arbitrary person, and one with whom it must be difficult to do business amicably, but I have ventured to advise Mr. Turner in his own interest to give Señor Figueredo no shadow of an excuse for refusing facilities, and to suppress as far as possible all indications of resentment.

(Signed) R. H. McCARTHY.

April 14, 1902.

Inclosure 14 in No. 83.

Señor Figueredo to the Manager of the Orinoco Trading and Shipping Company.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Trinidad, April 7, 1902.

THIS Consulate has taken note of the complaint, protest, or accusation against the Undersigned with which you, as Manager of above-mentioned Company, have troubled the attention of his Excellency the Governor of this island, overlooking the fact that I, as Consul for Venezuela, am solely responsible to the Government of Venezuela, and that it is before the latter superior authority that all complaints or protests regarding my Consular acts should be made.

I notice that the Company is supremely careful in regard to its own rights, but, at the same time, that it is equally careless with regard to compliance with the greater part of its obligations, above all, in regard to the dispatch of the "Bolivar;" wherefore, I would have you to know that here am I to compel you to comply with those obligations.

In the first place the dispatch of the "Bolivar" must be brought to this Office four hours before the time indicated for the departure of the steamer, and not at the last hour, as is your custom.

Furthermore, the Company has no right to issue passenger tickets, except to such persons as present their baggage lists, duly authorized by me, and to persons—Venezuelans or foreigners—provided with passports, which are obligatory; the Company being responsible for any failure to comply with these requisites, and subject to the payment of the fine which may be imposed by the Customs authorities of Ciudad Bolivar for such fault. This Consulate has taken note of persons who on each voyage of the "Bolivar" have travelled without baggage lists or passports.

Amongst the papers of the vessel a letter should reach me, signed by the captain, notifying me of the date of the departure, whether in ballast or with cargo

This Consulate, furthermore, will not admit any document connected with the departure of the steamer which requires the signature of the captain, when such document is signed by any other person than the captain, and those which the law requires to be signed before the Consul will have to be signed by the captain in the presence of the writer.

I hereby notify the Company that the captain must agree with the Undersigned as to the hour in which such signatures shall be attached, inasmuch as the multitudinous and diverse occupations inherent to the post I occupy, and the fulfilment of the orders of my Government to which I have to attend, are reasons why the Undersigned cannot

be always in office during dispatch hours, of which fact, if the Company desire, they may complain to my Government.

I furthermore notify the Company that the payment of Consular fees must be made at the same moment that the Consul delivers the ship's papers.

(Signed) CARLOS B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

Inclosure 15 in No. 83.

The Manager of the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company to Señor Figueredo.

(Translation.)

Sir,

April 12, 1902.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated the 7th instant, to which I have been unable to reply sooner because of the pressure of work due to the mails.

The "Codigo de Hacienda" does not anywhere stipulate that the papers connected with the dispatch of vessels are to be lodged at the Consulate at any particular hour nor with any specified period of hours.

The Law stipulates only the following :—

"Article 39. Consuls or Consular Agents may not delay the dispatch of documents presented to them in accordance with this Ordinance, during official hours, without being responsible for any damages that may be sustained by the interested parties by reason of such delay. The official hours for dispatching in the Consulates of Venezuela shall be the same as those of the Public Offices of the place where Consulates are established.

"Article 38. In ports where there are no Consular Agents of the Republic, the documents called for by this Ordinance, shall be presented to the Consular Agent of a friendly nation, and in cases where there are none such, or where the former may not be disposed to certify such documents, then they may be certified by two merchants whose signatures shall be attested by a Government official."

It is untrue that this Company has ever issued passenger tickets without the previous production of the corresponding passport and baggage list; but even supposing that the Company had so done, in every case it has been with the assent of the Consul, because, in every dispatch of the "Bolivar," besides the ship's papers, the list of passengers taken from the Company's ticket books is sent to the Consulate.

The other formalities mentioned in your letter constitute the imposition of fresh obstacles, inasmuch as they have no foundation in law, are contrary to the practice hitherto observed in this Colony, and confirm in the most emphatic manner the complaints which this Company has found it necessary to make to the Executive, in order to demonstrate the obstacles which the Consulate puts in the way of the regular and expeditious conduct of the mercantile interests of this Colony.

I regret to be forced to the conclusion from your letter that so far from being disposed to modify the restrictions which you have imposed to the detriment generally of the trade of this Colony and the grave inconvenience of this Company's mail service, it is your intention to interpose still further obstacles.

Copies, together with faithful translations of this correspondence, are sent for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor of this Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. A. TURNER

Inclosure 16 in No. 83.

Mr. E. R. Naysmith to Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Sir,

Port of Spain, April 18, 1902.

BY virtue of my power of attorney for the Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France (Limited), and on behalf of the above Company, whose registered office is at 19 A, Colman Street, London, E.C., I beg to bring the following facts to your notice, and respectfully beg your protection from similar occurrences :—

1. On the 9th April I informed Señor Carlos B. Figueredo, the Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad, that I was desirous of dispatching the Company's chartered British

registered cutter or lighter "Euterpe" on the following Saturday, the 12th instant, for Guanipa, the Company's Concession in the Orinico delta. The Consul at first declared his inability to dispatch the boat, on account of the fact that the port of Pedernales, where the boat should call to pay the customs dues, was in the hands of the revolutionists. I assured him that this was not the case, they having set out for Maturin on the 4th instant. He then promised to dispatch the boat whenever I was ready.

2. On presenting the necessary papers to the Consul through my agent, he declined to grant the dispatch, unless the sum of 20 dollars, which he demanded for a passport on the occasion of the previous dispatch of the boat, was immediately paid, although he had previously assured me that this money should not be collected until the result of my inquiry in Carácas as to the legality of his claim was known. However, I consented to pay the 20 dollars under protest.

3. He then declined to grant the dispatch, unless the full customs duties, which should be collected at a Venezuelan port, were paid to him here, in Trinidad, in advance. I objected to such an unprecedented demand, whereupon he not only declined to dispatch the boat, but also refused to give up my papers. This happened on Saturday, the 12th instant. My agent endeavoured several times on Monday and Tuesday, the 14th and 15th instant, to induce him to change his decision, but without result, although I offered to leave the money on deposit with the Consul on the understanding that if the revolutionists collected anything down the main, it was to be deducted from the amount on deposit.

4. On Tuesday, the 14th instant, finding it impossible to get my boat away, and the twenty-five or thirty British labourers I have working on the Concession running short of provisions, I was compelled to pay to the Consul, at his Office in Trinidad, the sum of 159 dol. 88 c., the amount of duty recoverable at a Venezuelan port, in addition to 19 dollars for the necessary dispatch papers. Should the boat be met by any of the revolutionary party on its journey, the probability is that they will demand the payment of duty also, or else seize the boat.

5. By order of the Consul, my papers were made out, with the destination left blank, he himself filling in the name Guanipa, an uninhabited spot of virgin forest, for which, by Venezuelan law, he renders himself liable to dismissal.

6. On granting the dispatch, he told my agent that there being no Collector of Customs at Guanipa, on the return of the boat the papers were to be given up to him. In this way he would become possessed of all the papers, which are always made out in triplicate, viz.: one for the Consul himself, one which he is supposed to send to the Minister of Finance in Carácas, and the one which the Collector of Customs keeps. If I refuse to give up this last batch of papers, the probability is that he will refuse to dispatch our boat again.

This, Sir, being the state of affairs, which renders it extremely difficult for us to carry on our operations, I respectfully beg that you will afford us such protection as will free us from such high-handed proceedings on the part of the Venezuelan Consul in future.

(Signed) E. R. NAYSMITH, *Attorney for the
Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes
de France (Limited).*

Inclosure 17 in No. 83.

Examination of Mr. E. R. Naysmith.

Present :

His Excellency the Governor.
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.
The Honourable the Attorney-General.
Mr. E. R. Naysmith.

HIS Excellency informed Mr. Naysmith that he had asked him to attend that day in order that the Attorney-General might have an opportunity of talking over with him the circumstances surrounding certain representations which he (Mr. Naysmith) had made against the Venezuelan Consul in Port of Spain, and of which the Attorney-General desired to get confirmation. The Attorney-General would therefore examine Mr. Naysmith on the papers.

Examined by the Attorney-General, Mr. Naysmith said :

I am an agent of the French Company, the *Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France* (Limited), a position which I have held since the 25th June last year, and for whom I hold a power of attorney, which has been duly registered. My Company is in lawful possession of a mine which is situate at Guanipa, near Pedernales, Venezuela. The deeds proving this have been registered at Maturin, which is the capital of the State, according to the law of Venezuela, and my Company is now working in the mine, using the labour of British subjects. I am a British subject. Twice since we acquired the property I have had occasion to dispatch boats with provisions to the mine. Before we acquired the property, and when we were prospecting in the district, on one occasion I set a chartered boat down, and once or twice went down myself in our steam-launch, taking provisions. This was during last year, and the Venezuelan Consul always gave me similar clearances. My port of entry was Guiria, which has lately been in the hands of the Venezuelan revolutionists. There is a custom-house at Pedernales to which the Consul could give a dispatch, but only if my vessel was in ballast—when I had cargo I had to go to Guiria. Previous to my last voyage I had a dispute with the Consul. It was concerning my passport, and the matter was referred to the capital—Caracas. After writing across my passport that the money in dispute (20 dollars) was not paid, and was to be collected when the result of my protest was received before he would allow me to proceed on my voyage, the Consul demanded the 20 dollars in dispute, which I paid under protest. He then told me that I must pay the duty on my consignments. I paid this, and received a receipt for the amount (159 dol. 88 c.). I have no objection to allowing this receipt to be attached to the Governor's Minute for a time. The receipt has only a Consular stamp, and I was not aware that I rendered myself liable to a small penalty for accepting it without a Trinidad stamp being on the receipt. Guiria was at that time in the hands of the revolutionists, but I hear that it is now recaptured by the Government. Being in the hands of the revolutionists the Consul refused to make me out a clearance for Guiria, and I thereupon suggested Pedernales. His reply was that the revolutionists were in power in that place also ; but I claimed that he could not refuse me dispatch for it, as I had brought news up that Pedernales had been evacuated by the revolutionists. I know this, because on the way down I had been kept back at Pedernales by the revolutionists, but coming back I found no one in charge of the Custom-house, and had to make out my own papers when I got back to Port of Spain. However, the Consul refused to dispatch me for either Pedernales or Guiria, as he said he knew the revolutionists were there. He then declined to grant the dispatch unless the full customs duties which should be collected at a Venezuelan port were paid to him here in Trinidad. The papers are in triplicate, and he wanted to obtain possession of the three copies ; but this I would not allow, as it was necessary that I should have them to prove that I had paid the money.

I left England in June last year, and have been in Trinidad since July, with the exception of one or two journeys out of the island on business. My Trinidad address is 148, Frederick Street, Port of Spain, where I board with Mr. Devenish. At present I use a room there as an office. My Company's registered office is at 19 A, Coleman Street, London.

I paid the money under the circumstances mentioned by me in my letter to the Government. I paid it through M. Giaonetti, one of the clerks of the Orinoco Asphalt Company. I drew M. Gioanetti a cheque for 210 dollars, out of which he paid the tees.

In reply to his Excellency, Mr. Naysmith said the reason the Consul gave for demanding the duty here was that he was afraid that he might come across revolutionists, who would collect it.

By the Attorney-General: The Consul simply refused point-blank to grant my dispatch unless I paid, and he made the papers out for Guanipa, after asking me to leave the destination blank. Guanipa is virgin forest, and so I suppose it was a sham clearance.

By his Excellency: There is no representative of the Venezuelan Government at Guanipa, and that was the reason I asked him to return the papers. The only settlement there is my pitch works, which are in a clearing in the forest. The Consul did not explain why he inserted Guanipa after telling me to leave the papers blank and he would fill the name in. He merely said that I could go straight down to Guanipa. He had written on the papers the names of the Commandante, but there was no such person at Guanipa ; there is not even a Government official of any kind, the place being, except for the ranches I have built for my men, uninhabited and virgin forest.

His Excellency thanked Mr. Naysmith for his attendance, and he then withdrew.

April 22, 1902.

Inclosure 18 in No. 83.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to Señor Figueredo.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be good enough to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor—

1. Whether on Tuesday, the 14th instant, you received from the agent clearing the vessel "Euterpe" a sum of 159 dol. 88 c. for customs duties payable on the cargo of such vessel to the Government of Venezuela. His Excellency is advised that, if so, you have gravely exceeded your powers, and assumed the right to commit an act of sovereignty on British territory, and his Excellency would be glad to know by virtue of what authority the money was so received.

2. Whether it is true that you made out a clearance for the same vessel, "Euterpe," directed to the "Commandant of Guanipa;" whether Guanipa is a port of entry in Venezuela, and whether there is a Commandant or any other officer of the Republic at that place; and, if there is no such person, then for what purpose and by what authority you issued such clearance.

3. Whether it is true that you required the captain or other agent of the said "Euterpe" to return to you the triplicate copy of the clearance so granted, and, if so, for what purpose and by what authority.

In asking you these questions, and with reference to your remarks in your letter of the 5th April last, that the Venezuelan authorities are the proper persons to take cognizance of any irregularities committed by their officers, I am directed to inform you that his Excellency the Governor does not claim to exercise any direct control over your actions as Consul for Venezuela; but, on the other hand, it is his duty to satisfy himself that the affairs of the Consulate within the Colony are conducted according to international usage and due legality.

I venture to ask for the favour of an early reply to this communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

No. 84.

Memorandum respecting the Steam-ship "Ban Righ" for "Bolivar."

IN answer to a question of Mr. Channing's in the House of Commons on the 20th January, Lord Cranborne explained the circumstances in which the "Ban Righ" was allowed to leave the Port of London after detention and examination of her papers and cargo. The Colombian Minister at this Court had stated that the vessel was intended for the service of his Government, and as no state of war existed between Colombia and any other Power there was no reason for detaining her.

She left these shores registered as a British ship; her port of registry being Aberdeen, the date of register, the 26th October, 1888. Flying the British merchant flag, she proceeded direct to Antwerp, where she took in a large supply of arms, ammunition, and coal. On the 30th November, 1901, she sailed out of the Scheldt, and reached Martinique on the 22nd December. It was while she was here that the Venezuelan Government issued a Proclamation on the 30th December declaring her to be a pirate, and authorizing her pursuit and capture by public or private ships armed as privateers, whether belonging to Venezuela or to any other nation. They offered the vessel and her cargo as a prize to her captor, together with a reward of 2,000*l*.

The "Ban Righ" was still further fitted out at Martinique, took on board the Venezuelan Revolutionary General Matos, and was handed over to the Colombian Government on the 1st January, 1902. On the 2nd January she was transferred at sea by bill of sale to General Matos.

Between this and the 23rd March we have but little trustworthy information as to her movements, though we know that she was at Savanilla on the 12th January, flying the British merchant flag, and at St. Lucia on the 28th February, flying the Colombian national flag. It appears, moreover, that on various occasions she committed hostile acts against Venezuela. On the 7th February the Collector of Customs and Registrar of Shipping at Aberdeen received a note from Mr. de Paula, the registered owner, stating that he had sold the vessel on the 2nd January. The registry of the vessel at Aberdeen was, consequently, closed on the

7th February. On the 23rd March she arrived at Trinidad, flying the Colombian national flag and holding a commission from the Colombian Government. There she has been ever since with her machinery disabled.

As the "Ban Righ" was, ostensibly at least, a Colombian man-of-war, no action could be taken against her by His Majesty's Government, who were, moreover, in no way liable for any depredation committed by her. The circumstances, in which she was permitted to leave this country were such that no charge of negligence could properly be put forward by the Venezuelan Government against His Majesty's Government, and any use made of the British flag subsequent to her transfer was merely a wrongful act, for which His Majesty's Government were not responsible. As it appeared, however, that the vessel was carrying on hostile operations against the Venezuelan Government, she was not to be allowed to coal or in any way fit out in British ports, or use any British port as a base for her operations.

It was, however, decided that the "Ban Righ" should not be allowed to refit in Trinidad unless satisfactory assurances were received that she was a Colombian public vessel, and that she would not in the future be allowed to engage in irregular hostilities against Venezuela. Instructions were accordingly telegraphed to Mr. Welby on the 2nd April to inform the Colombian Government in this sense, but, owing to the interruption of telegraphic communication with Bogotá, these instructions only reached His Majesty's Minister on the 27th April, and no reply has yet been received.

It has been since decided—

That, until the assurances referred to above had been received from the Colombian Government, permission should not be granted for a British ship to take arms and ammunition from the "Ban Righ" to Cartagena.

That there would be no objection to a Colombian man-of-war's removing the "Ban Righ" in tow or taking her arms and ammunition on board.

Repeated protests against the action of His Majesty's Government in allowing the vessel to leave the Port of London, and also against the action of the Trinidad authorities, have been received from the Venezuelan Government, but Mr. Haggard was instructed by telegram on the 26th March to inform them that there was no liability on the part of His Majesty's Government for any depredation committed by the vessel.

Foreign Office, May 19, 1902.

No. 85.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 30.)

Sir,

Downing Street, May 29, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, with reference to the Colonial Office letter of the 13th instant, the accompanying copies of two despatches and a telegram from the Governor of Trinidad on the subject of the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain.

In view of the improprieties of which Señor Figueredo has been guilty, Mr. Chamberlain would be glad if Lord Lansdowne, should he see no objection, would instruct Mr. Haggard to present a protest to the Venezuelan Government against the action of the Consul in hampering legitimate trade between Trinidad and Venezuela, in improperly demanding the payment in Trinidad of Venezuelan customs duties, and in arrogating to himself diplomatic functions to which he has no title; and to inform that Government that unless satisfactory assurances are forthcoming as to Señor Figueredo's future conduct, His Majesty's exequatur will not be issued to him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, May 2, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 24th ultimo on the subject of the complaint of Mr. E. R. Naysmith against the conduct of the Consul for Venezuela, I

have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, copy of the reply which Señor Figueredo returned to my Colonial Secretary's letter of the 23rd April, which formed Inclosure No. 4 to my despatch above quoted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Señor Figueredo to Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Sir,

Trinidad, April 25, 1902.

IN reply to letter from the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, dated yesterday [? April 23], and which I had the honour of receiving to-day, I can inform your Excellency that it is a fact that on the 14th instant I dispatched for Guanipa the lighter "Euterpe," with provisions for the employés of the "Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France," collecting the fixed duties that said provisions were liable at their entry in Venezuela.

I deeply regret with what frequency your Excellency inquires and calls upon me to answer for my Consular acts, of the right with which I am assisted, and of the official source from which my said actions are derived, compelling me in each case to answer your Excellency that it is the Venezuelan Government to whom they ought to carry their complaints and protests or accusations, and the particulars of the injuries caused to trade by my Consular acts, and to whom they have no right to make.

Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) CARLOS B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, May 7, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, copies of further correspondence with the Consul for Venezuela (Señor Figueredo).

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 85.

Señor Figueredo to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

Excellent Sir,

April 22, 1902.

THE town of Guiria, having been reoccupied by the forces of the Constitutional Government of Venezuela, and among other revolutionary correspondence taken by the victors figures seven letters from M. M. A. Matos, which can be proved that the said M. M. A. Matos directs, formulates, and helps, from the British Island of Trinidad, the existing revolution against the legal Government of Venezuela.

That M. M. A. Matos, recognized chief of the said revolution, sends from Trinidad arms, cartridges, and other war elements, against the Government of a friendly nation to Great Britain.

That M. M. A. Matos sends messages and revolutionary expeditions from this British Island of Trinidad to the Republic of Venezuela for such reasons and calling on the Neutrality Laws and those that constitute the international rights, and submitting myself to the friendly Treaty existing between Venezuela and Great Britain, I now ask formally, and with all respect due to your Excellency and in the name of the Venezuelan Government, to invite M. M. A. Matos to leave the island immediately.

As it is to be expected if your Excellency desires to see, in order to give effect to this petition, the original letters of M. M. A. Matos, I pray that your Excellency should depute one of your Excellency's confidential employés, under whose care I can deliver them that they may be safely placed in your Excellency's hands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

Inclosure 5 in No. 85.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to Señor Figueredo.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Trinidad, April 30, 1902.

I AM commanded by his Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd instant, in which you desire to draw his attention to what are referred to as acts of M. M. A. Matos, and suggest to his Excellency that that person be requested to leave the Colony. You also offer to put at his Excellency's disposal certain letters of the said M. M. A. Matos.

2. I am directed to inform you, in reply, that if it is desired to address any diplomatic representations to the Government of His Majesty, either in respect of matters arising within this Colony or otherwise, the proper authority to be referred to is either His Majesty's Minister at Carácas, or His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in London; and that if you were directed to make the representations contained in your letter by the Government at Carácas, his Excellency will be obliged if you will kindly so advise that Government.

3. His Excellency has no desire to peruse the documents said to be letters of M. M. A. Matos, referred to in your letter under acknowledgment.

4. In the opinion of his Excellency it is not competent for a Consular officer to make such a communication or indeed any communication on any subject not within the scope of the special purposes for which Consuls are appointed; and I am further to inform you that on whatever subject of a public nature communications are desired to be made to the Government of this Colony by any person, the rule is that they should be addressed to the Colonial Secretary, and directed to this Office, for the preservation of uniformity of system, and for expedition in the transaction of business, a practice which is observed by all your colleagues. His Excellency would be much obliged, therefore, if in future you would be good enough to conform to this rule.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 85.

Señor Figueredo to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Trinidad, April 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a copy of the War Proclamation, which M. M. A. Matos, chief of the revolution against the legal Government of Venezuela has, from the British Island of Trinidad, addressed to the Venezuelans.

With all due respect, and in view of this document being now before your Excellency, I, in the name of the Venezuelan Government, protest in the most formal and energetic manner against the unusual and scandalous action which, from a foreign country as this Colony, excites direct and foments the war against a friendly nation, as Venezuela; the revolutionists and their chief, M. M. A. Matos, enjoying all kinds of guarantees and immunities, which are not in good accordance with any of the precepts of neutrality nor with any of the Laws and Treaties by which all civilized countries are governed.

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) CARLOS B. FIGUEREDO.

Inclosure 7 in No. 85.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to Señor Figueredo.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Trinidad, May 5, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th April, forwarding copies of Proclamations issued by M. M. A. Matos, and protesting in the name of the Venezuelan Government against his action.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to draw your attention to my letter of the 30th ultimo, and to say that the principles set forth in that letter apply also to the subject set forth in your letter under acknowledgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 8 in No. 85.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Telegraphic.)

Government House, Trinidad, May 23, 1902.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 24th April, British Companies complain that Venezuelan Consul insists on prepayment in Trinidad of duty on goods consigned to Venezuelan ports refusing dispatch otherwise. Serious objection to practice. Threatened destruction of vessels in Venezuelan waters by Venezuelan ship of war now allowed use of harbour if disregarding.

Please telegraph instructions.

No. 86.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, May 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, having received a note from General Diego B. Ferrer, announcing his appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs, I called upon him on the 12th instant.

The General himself shortly broached the subject of the relations between His Majesty's Government and that of Venezuela.

I gave him the story of the "Ban Righ" at length. In reply to a remark about the hostile attitude of the Governor of Trinidad, I replied that I did not believe that there was any ground for such an idea; that it had been started and fostered by the Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad, who, on the one hand, provoked the Government there, and, on the other, excited and stirred up the Government here.

I had another interview with him yesterday, when he again reverted to the attitude of the Government of Trinidad, and said that he was going to write to me on the subject, dwelling specially on the fact that General Matos was making Trinidad the base of his attacks on Venezuela—directing, indeed, the revolution thence. Would it not be possible to expel him?

I said that I felt sure that every possible means had been employed to prevent the Colony from being the base of attacks on Venezuela. I expressed my strong doubt as to its having been so, and showed him that it was this very determination on the part of His Majesty's Government to prevent this which had prompted their action in the case of the "Ban Righ."

I then urged him not to put forward any request which it would be impossible to grant, such as that of the expulsion of General Matos. I pointed out that the feeling with reference to the right of asylum in political cases was so deep-rooted in England that it would be quite impossible for any colonial Governor to act against it.

I pointed out that for more than half-a-century Trinidad had been the refuge of Venezuelans of all parties, one after another. Had he ever heard of any being expelled? To-day it was General Matos; to-morrow it might be some of the other party.

No. 87.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, June 9, 1902.

IN a despatch of the 9th March you transmitted a copy of a note from the Venezuelan Government acknowledging the receipt of the communication, in which you conveyed the reservations of His Majesty's Government with regard to the British interests and British subjects connected with the Bolivar Railway, and stating that they cannot deal with the case while the situation created by the steam-ship "Ban Righ" continues.

His Majesty's Government cannot admit that there is any connection between the question of the Bolivar Railway and that of the "Ban Righ," and cannot acquiesce in the attempt of the Venezuelan Government to postpone dealing with other pending questions until that of the "Ban Righ" is disposed of.

No. 88.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 12.)

Sir,

Downing Street, June 11, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a despatch with inclosures from the Governor of Trinidad, calling attention to the destruction at Pedernales of the British vessel "In Time" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "General Crespo."

Mr. Chamberlain would be glad to be favoured with Lord Lansdowne's views as to Sir Alfred Moloney's proposals.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, May 12, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of evidence which has been taken of the destruction at Pedernales by the Venezuelan gun-boat "General Crespo" of the British vessel "In Time." Copies of the inclosures have been forwarded to the British Minister at Carácas.

2. I am informed that La Guayra is the only port now held by the Government of Venezuela, and Port of Spain has practically become the base of operations for the Venezuelan navy to carry on a war of retaliation against the insurgents. The "General Crespo" and other Venezuelan gun-boats from time to time take in coal and provisions at Port of Spain, proceed to the neighbouring coast for the purpose of bombarding defenceless villages and destroying trading vessels without regard to nationality, and then return here to prepare for another similar expedition.

3. I am of opinion that on the return of the "Indefatigable" the gun-boat "General Crespo" should be taken possession of, and held until reparation has been made for the destruction of the "In Time" and other British vessels, as it is perfectly useless—indeed, waste of time—making money claims against the Venezuelan Government.

4. I am also of opinion that this port should be closed until further notice to the Venezuelan navy, as they are not carrying on the war in a civilized manner. On this point I draw attention to the inclosed evidence of Joachim Rodriguez. Some of the statements have been authenticated by eye-witnesses.

5. If you agree to these steps being taken, I shall be glad to receive instructions by telegram.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Statement of Mr. J. F. Monnot.

MR. J. F. MONNOT states that he is an American citizen, and in ignorance of the fact that British law forbade foreign ownership of British shipping, he paid 200 dollars for half of the schooner "In Time," owned by William Waith, and registered in Trinidad. He took no steps to have his title registered.

From the following persons he learned that the schooner was attacked by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Crespo":—

The pilot of the "Crespo," whose name he does not know, told him, on the night of Saturday last (3rd instant), in Trinidad, that on the arrival of the gun-boat in Pedernales orders were given to seize all craft in port, and this was done. The "In Time," however, being badly tied, drifted with the steamer. She was fired upon with cannon, and, this failing, a party of men went from the "Crespo," and with axes knocked part of the side out, and she sank. The pilot whose engagement terminated at Trinidad said this occurred on Tuesday, the 29th April.

This exactly confirmed what Mr. Monnot had heard on the previous day from the master of a small boat, whose name he had heard, but forgets, and who had been fired upon by the "Crespo" at Pedernales.

Mr. Naysmith, the engineer of an Asphalt Company near Pedernales, who arrived from that place on Sunday last (4th instant), also mentioned the incident as being spoken of in the district; Mr. Naysmith added that he saw the boat a wreck on a bank where she had been left by people who had recovered her.

The "In Time" left Trinidad with a cargo of provisions, consigned to Bolivar, she returned from Bolivar in ballast to Pedernales, where she arrived and has since lain, her services not having been required.

William Waith, the registered owner, took her away from Trinidad as master. In Pedernales he left her and returned to Trinidad, leaving the vessel in the care of Jean Mozziconacci, Mr. Monnot's overseer in Pedernales, where he has mining property.

The pilot referred to also informed Mr. Monnot that after destroying, or attempting to destroy, the "In Time," the "Crespo" came to Trinidad, returned to Pedernales, where Mozziconacci, who is a French citizen, was arrested and detained on board. The "Crespo" again came to Trinidad, when Mozziconacci requested permission to communicate with Mr. Monnot, whose business was left without supervision by his (the overseer's) arrest, but it was refused. Mr. Monnot has every reason to believe that the overseer is still on board the "Crespo," but for the past month he has had no direct communication with him.

(Signed) J. F. MONNOT.

April 6, 1902.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Statement by Joachim Rodriguez.

I, JOACHIM RODRIGUEZ, master of the open boat "Dios de Salve," hereby make oath and say as follows:—

About six days ago I was at Pedernales with my boat, and saw the gun-boat "Crespo" arrive about 11 A.M. Before anchoring she fired two shots (cannon) into the village. After anchoring, two boats' crews of about twenty men put off from the "Crespo" and seized two large boats and several small ones.

I saw the schooner "In Time" at anchor, the sails unbent. Two British subjects, whose names I do not know, left the schooner as soon as the "Crespo" fired at the village, leaving nobody on board. I was on shore, hiding about 500 yards from the "In Time."

One of the "Crespo's" boats boarded the "In Time," hoisted her anchor, and towed her to the "Crespo," and made her fast to that vessel. Several small boats were destroyed all—in the port, in fact; then the crew of the "Crespo" turned their attention to the schooner, a number of men going on board carrying implements, the exact nature of which I was too far away to identify. By their movements on board (making the motion of striking), I knew that they were breaking up the vessel. Meanwhile, she was being towed down the river by the gun-boat, and gradually

getting lower in the water. After going about a mile—the “Crespo” having cast her off about half a mile from the “Crespo’s” original anchorage—the hull of the schooner disappeared, her masts remaining visible.

I did not see her again.

I am an American citizen, and was born in Boston. I have been in Venezuela since I was 9 years old.

My own boat I, this deponent, had previously secreted in a creek, and she escaped destruction.

(Signed) JOACHIM RODRIGUEZ, his × mark.

Sworn at the Court-house in the town of Port of Spain in the Island of Trinidad, the 7th day of May, 1902, the contents of this affidavit having been by me deponent, and he having understood the same and having placed his mark thereto in my presence.

Before me,
(Signed) ERNEST D. CLARK,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

Inclosure 4 in No. 88.

Statement by William Waith.

I, WILLIAM WAITH, of Port of Spain, domestic servant, having been duly sworn, do state:—

In October 1900 I bought for 200 dollars, at Morowhanna, British Guiana (Barima district), the river boat “In Time.”

In the following January I converted her in Trinidad into a sea-going boat at a cost of about 500 dollars. The sides were raised by 22 inches, a keel supplied, 4 feet added to the length, and the vessel decked and schooner rigged. Mr. J. F. Monnot advanced me the money for these alterations, and I made him my manager. I partly repaid him by service as engineer on a launch, but as my account has not been balanced, I cannot say how much I am still indebted to him.

In April 1901 I took her with cargo to Ciudad Bolivar, Emanuel Danet acting as master. I left the schooner there in order to join Mr. Monnot’s launch.

I have no personal knowledge of what occurred to the schooner afterwards, having left her management to Mr. Monnot.

I am still the registered owner, and have not transferred my rights to anybody.

(Signed) WILLIAM WAITH.

Sworn to at the Court-house in the town of Port of Spain, this 10th day of May, 1902.

Before me,
(Signed) L. H. LOVELACE,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 89.

Mr. Dickson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 13.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bogotá, May 7, 1902.

I DID not receive until the 26th April your telegram of the 2nd of that month. I am requested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to inform your Lordship as follows:—

1. That the “Ban Righ,” now “Libertador,” is regarded by the Colombian Government as their property; and

2. That, so long as there is no state of war between Colombia and Venezuela, the use of the vessel for the purpose of committing acts of hostility against Venezuela will not be authorized by them; they have further issued orders that the “Ban Righ” shall proceed to Colombian waters, and be stationed in those waters.

I have received no further assurances from the Colombian Government. They trust, however, that His Majesty’s Government will give permission for the vessel to refit in Port of Spain Harbour, and leave that port as soon as may be decided by the Agents of the Colombian Government, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs has asked me to obtain sanction for this.

No. 90.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 18.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, May 31, 1902.

I HAVE received on several occasions despatches from the Governor of Trinidad inclosing complaints of the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul in that Colony. As, however, as your Lordship is aware, the Venezuelan Government has repeatedly informed me that they would refuse to entertain any correspondence with this Legation on any subject save such as was connected with the "Ban Righ," I conceived that it would be futile for me to make any official representation on this matter, nor indeed has Sir Alfred Moloney requested me to do so. I have, however, on several occasions called the attention of the Venezuelan Government verbally to the subject, and have thought it advisable at least to put officially on record the complaints which have been made against the Consul in the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Mr. Haggard to General Ferrer.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, May 31, 1902.

I REGRET that it should have been, on various occasions, my unpleasant duty to bring to your Excellency's knowledge verbally, complaints which I had received officially against the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain, one of which is that he is constantly guilty of irregularities in the Consular fees which he charges.

Your Excellency is aware that I have personal proof of this fact, as also that, in one case at least within my knowledge and that of your Excellency, Señor Figueredo has disobeyed the direct orders of his Government in regard to the improper levying of a Consular fee.

As far back as the 13th January, the Secretary of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary on the matter of these irregularities, complaining, amongst other things, that the Consul charged fees in excess of or not provided by the scale of fees detailed in Article LXVIII of the Venezuelan Law of the 3rd June, 1899.

On the 15th February, the Colonial Secretary inquired from Señor Figueredo by what authority he had interfered with the trade of Mr. Lyon, a Trinidad merchant, by refusing to accept any dispatch of vessels from him or from any person acting as agent for him or for his house of business.

To this, Señor Figueredo answered, on the 17th February, that he had done so by the order and with the authority of the Venezuelan Government, because Mr. Lyon was not a *persona grata* to that Government, but that if that gentleman wanted to dispatch a vessel under a non-Venezuelan flag he would not refuse to do so.

To this Sir Courtenay Knollys answered on the 19th March that, whilst it was the Governor's desire and intention to respect fully the position of a Consul, it was at the same time as well that Señor Figueredo should thoroughly understand that his Excellency was not prepared to recognize under any circumstances the right of any Consul to discriminate in his official treatment of merchants, whatever their nationality, by imposing disabilities in any way or direction as regards facilities for obtaining Consular signatures to documents, or as against any vessels of whatever flag requiring, in their commercial intercourse, clearance from the ports of that Colony.

Señor Figueredo was further asked, with reference to his statement that he had declined to accept dispatch of vessels from Mr. Lyon, to favour the Trinidad Government with a copy of the letter or order from the Government of Venezuela under which he acted in refusing dispatch to the ship to which Mr. Lyon was agent.

The further question was put to Señor Figueredo as to whether his statement that he did not propose to refuse to dispatch a vessel under a non-Venezuelan flag was also by order of his Government, as his Excellency was unaware of, and unprepared to recognize, any Consular right to refuse arbitrarily to a particular merchant clearance from the ports of Trinidad to vessels sailing under that Consul's flag.

Señor Figueredo, in his reply of the 21st March, replied that he would apply to the Venezuelan Government for authority to give the copy of the official order

requested, but there is nothing in the subsequent correspondence to show that this was ever produced.

Amongst other irregularities of Señor Figueredo in the conduct of his Consulate which have been submitted to me is also the following :—

On the 18th April, Mr. E. R. Naysmith, attorney for the *Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France (Limited)*, whose registered office is at 19 A, Coleman Street, London, E.C., brought the following facts to the knowledge of the Government of Trinidad, and begged for their protection against similar circumstances :—

On the 9th April he informed the Venezuelan Consul in Trinidad that he was desirous of dispatching the Company's chartered British-registered cutter or lighter "Euterpe" on the following Saturday, the 12th of that month, for Guanipa, the Company's Concession in the Orinoco Delta. The Consul at first declared his inability to dispatch the boat on account of the fact that the Port of Pedernales, where the boat should call to pay the customs dues, was in the hands of the revolutionists. Mr. Naysmith assured him that this was not the case, they having set out for Maturin on the 4th April; the Consul then promised to dispatch the boat whenever Mr. Naysmith was ready.

On the necessary papers being presented to the Consul through Mr. Naysmith's agent, he declined to grant the dispatch unless the sum of 20 dollars, which he demanded for a passport on the occasion of a previous dispatch of the boat, was immediately paid, although he had previously assured Mr. Naysmith that this money should not be collected until the result of his inquiry in Carácas as to the legality of his claim was known. However, the latter consented to pay the 20 dollars under protest.

He then declined to grant the dispatch unless the full customs duties, which should be collected at a Venezuelan port, were paid to him there in Trinidad in advance. Mr. Naysmith objected to such an unprecedented demand, whereupon the Consul not only declined to dispatch the boat, but also refused to give up the former's papers. This happened on Saturday, the 12th April. Mr. Naysmith's agent endeavoured several times on Monday and Tuesday, the 14th and 15th of that month, to induce him to change his decision, but without result, although he offered to leave the money on deposit with the Consul on the understanding that if the revolutionists collected anything down the main it was to be deducted from the amount on deposit.

On Tuesday, the 14th April, Mr. Naysmith, finding it impossible to get his boat away, and that the twenty-five or thirty British labourers he had working on the Concession were running short of provisions, was compelled to pay to the Consul, at his office in Trinidad, the sum of 159 dol. 88 c., the amount of duty recoverable at a Venezuelan port, in addition to 19 dollars for the necessary dispatch papers.

By order of the Consul, Mr. Naysmith's papers were made out with the destination left blank, he himself filling in the name Guanipa, an uninhabited spot of the Virgin Forest, for which, it is stated by Venezuelan law, he renders himself liable to dismissal.

On granting the dispatch, the Consul told Mr. Naysmith's agent that, there being no Collector of Customs at Guanipa, on the return of the boat the papers were to be given up to him. In this way he would have become possessed of all the papers, which are always made out in triplicate, viz., one for the Consul himself, one which he is supposed to send to the Minister of Finance in Carácas, and the one which the Collector of Customs keeps.

Under these circumstances, and the consequent difficulties thrown in the way of his business, Mr. Naysmith asked for the protection of the Government of Trinidad against the future high-handed proceedings of the Venezuelan Consul.

On the 24th April a letter was addressed to Señor Figueredo by Sir Courtenay Knollys, the Colonial Secretary, in which he was requested to answer, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following questions :—

Whether on Tuesday, the 14th April, he received from the agent clearing the vessel "Euterpe" a sum of 159 dol. 88 c. for customs duties payable on the cargo of such vessel to the Government of Venezuela. His Excellency was advised that, if so, he had gravely exceeded his powers, and had assumed the right to commit an act of sovereignty on British territory, and would be glad to know by virtue of what authority the money was so received.

Whether it was true that he made out a clearance for the same vessel "Euterpe" directed to the "Commandant of Guanipa"; whether Guanipa is a port of entry in Venezuela, and whether there is a Commandant or any other officer of the Republic

at that place, and, if there is no such person, for what purpose and by what authority he issued such clearance.

Whether it was true that he required the captain or other agent of the said "Euterpe" to return to him the triplicate copy of the clearance so granted, and, if so, for what purpose and by what authority.

In asking these questions and with reference to Señor Figueredo's remarks in his letter of the 5th April that the Venezuelan authorities are the proper persons to take cognizance of any irregularities committed by their officers, the Colonial Secretary was directed to inform him that his Excellency the Governor did not claim to exercise any direct control over his actions as Consul for Venezuela, but that, on the other hand, it was his duty to satisfy himself that the affairs of the Consulate within the Colony were conducted according to international usage and due legality.

Señor Figueredo omitted to reply to most of these questions, but stated, on the 25th April, that it was a fact that on the 14th of that month he had dispatched for Guanipa the lighter "Euterpe," collecting the fixed duties that its cargo of provisions was liable to on their entry into Venezuela.

Without, therefore, entering into the other irregularities, he, by his own confession, fully justifies Sir A. Moloney's remarks that he had gravely exceeded his powers, and assumed the right to commit an act of sovereignty on British territory. He goes on, however, to answer his Excellency's inquiries as to what authority he was acting under in demanding this money, by stating that it is to the Venezuelan Government that complaints of his conduct should be addressed, apparently wishing to imply that he was committing these illegalities by the authority of his Government. This is manifestly absurd, nor is it to be supposed for a moment that his Government will indorse the misconduct of their official, but Señor Figueredo is right in supposing that, in the ultimate case, it is to the Venezuelan Government that complaints against it should be submitted, as they are now in this note.

I would here observe that the state of things, of which I have quoted two examples, has now been going on for many months, but I have refrained from making an official representation, in the hopes that my verbal representations, together with the general condemnation of Señor Figueredo's conduct by Venezuelans of all parties—especially, to my knowledge, by active supporters of the Government—might bring about a change.

Your Excellency is aware of the public animadversions which Señor Figueredo's conduct has evoked in Trinidad, and I would venture to submit that it points to a serious state of things when the Agent of a Government exposes himself to such public reprobation. I will say nothing of the practical injury to the trade of Venezuela thus caused, for that is the affair of the Venezuelan Government, but will confine myself to pointing out, on this head, the injury to the trade of a British possession caused by a Venezuelan official.

In submitting these circumstances to your Excellency, I feel sure that your exalted appreciation of what is due, both to the credit of your own country and to the interests of that which I have the honour of representing, will induce you to cause such steps to be taken as shall put an end immediately to a state of things as unusual as it is regrettable.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 91.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, June 24, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State, the accompanying copy of a telegram from Mr. Dickson,* who was at the date of its dispatch in temporary charge of His Majesty's Legation at Bogotá, conveying the reply of the Colombian Government to the inquiry which was addressed to them with regard to the "Libertador" and "Bolivar."

I am now to state that, in his Lordship's opinion, the assurances given may be

* No. 89.

accepted as satisfactory, and that the vessel may be allowed to refit in Port of Spain, and proceed thence to Colombian waters.

I am to suggest that the Governor of Trinidad should be instructed in this sense.

No. 92.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 26.)

Sir,

Downing Street, June 25, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, with reference to the Colonial Office letter of the 29th ultimo, the accompanying copy of a despatch, with inclosures, from the Governor of Trinidad, relating to the conduct of Señor Figueredo, Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain.

2. Mr. Chamberlain would be glad to learn whether Lord Lansdowne saw fit to take any action in consequence of the Colonial Office letter above mentioned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Governor Sir A. Moloney to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, May 28, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the further correspondence on the subject of the conduct of M. C. B. Figueredo, Consul for Venezuela.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Orinoco Asphalt Company to Governor Sir A. Moloney.

Sir,

Port of Spain, May 23, 1902.

WE take the liberty of submitting to your Excellency the following facts, viz. :—

The Venezuelan Consul here, M. Carlos B. Figueredo, wrote us on the 24th April last that he was unable to certify any dispatch for our vessels to Pedernales as long as this place was in the hands of the revolutionary party. Afterwards, we were informed that the said Consul had received special instructions from the Venezuelan Government at Carácas to dispatch vessels of all Companies established here possessing mines in Venezuela, if such vessels had to carry provisions for their employés and labourers. Not having received from the Venezuelan Consulate any communication about this matter, we directed a letter to M. Figueredo the 20th of this month, asking him for the dispatch of our steam-launch "Explorador" and our lighter "Ibis" with cargo for Pedernales. This letter was answered the same day.

Your Excellency would be kind enough to remark from this reply that the Consul declares himself disposed to give us, in accordance with special instructions received from Carácas, the desired dispatch, but only for our lighter "Ibis," and under the most strict condition that the same duties which we under general circumstances should have to pay to the Collector of Customs in Guiria were to be paid to him here at delivery of the certified dispatch papers of our lighter.

Now, taking in consideration (1) that the Venezuelan Consulates have no legal right at all to collect amounts which belong to "El Fisco Nacional de Venezuela;" (2) that the Consul is not disposed either to accept any deposit of the corresponding duties—as our

proposal was—or to assume the responsibility of a guarantee that we should not have to pay the same duties at the arrival of the vessel at Pedernales; (3) that a protest by us through the German Consul here, and consequently a claim against the Government of Venezuela, would be in vain in view of the Decrees which have lately been given by the actual President of Venezuela; and, lastly (4), that we have the urgent necessity of providing our mine with these provisions just arrived from New York in transit for Pedernales and with transshipment here.

We beg your Excellency to be kind enough to communicate to us if you should be able to cause the disappearance of the above-mentioned inconveniences, as we cannot expect that the British Government should tolerate that M. Carlos B. Figueredo, at the same time executing his Consular functions, should also be allowed to assume the duties of a Collector of Customs of Venezuela.

As our lighter "Ibis" has to leave this port as soon as possible, an early reply will greatly oblige.

Your obedient servants,
(Orinoco Asphalt Company, G.M.B.H., Trinidad Agency,
by special power of attorney),
(Signed) W. FECHTENBURG.

Inclosure 3 in No. 92.

Señor Figueredo to Orinoco Asphalt Company.

Sir,

May 20, 1902.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your favour of this date, and, in answer, I beg to let you know that in fact I have received instructions from my Government to dispatch the vessel which your Company should destine to carry provisions for the labourers of your mines and for no other.

Consequently, this Consulate will dispatch the lighter "Ibis," but only under the written conditions sent to me by the Government, among which is the following: That your Company has to satisfy this Consulate the same duties which you would have to pay to the Collector of Customs at Guiria at the delivery of the dispatch papers.

I think it is time that I should let you know that this temporary and humanitarian concession does not divert in any way the protest which the Government has presented through the Department of Foreign Affairs with regard to the dispatches which have been effected by the German Consul.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CARLOS B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

Inclosure 4 in No. 92.

Mr. Naysmith to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Sir,

Port of Spain, May 24, 1902.

IN an interview you granted me two days ago *re* dispatch of British cutter "Euterpe," you advised me to apply for a dispatch from the Venezuelan Consul on condition that he accepted the duty under protest. I applied for the dispatch, but he refused to grant it to me on those terms, as he refused to recognize British authority. I therefore notified you in my letter of the 23rd instant that he refused to dispatch my boat unless I paid all duties, &c., unconditionally. Later in the day you advised me to pay the duty unconditionally, which I have done, as I could not in any other way get down to my men, who are nearly or quite out of provisions.

This morning the Consul notified me that when I met the Venezuelan gun-boat "General Crespo" I was not to try and get away from it, as they were notified that I should leave to-night, and were instructed to look over my papers, cargo, &c., and deal with me as they were instructed.

I was stopped by the same gun-boat "General Crespo" on my last return from Venezuela, and informed that if I came back to Venezuelan waters flying the British flag I should be seized or sunk.

I have some twenty-five to thirty British subjects awaiting food supplies in Venezuela, and having no protection, had to leave with supplies to-night at the risk of our lives.

I was requested by his Excellency's Private Secretary this afternoon to put this explanation in writing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. R. NAYSMITH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 92.

Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, to Señor Figueredo.

Sir,

Port of Spain, May 26, 1902.

REFERRING to my letter of the 24th [? 23rd] ultimo and to your reply of the 25th, I am directed by the Governor to draw your attention to the fact that a further complaint has been made to his Excellency by the Orinoco Asphalt Company that before granting a clearance, which was formerly applied for on the 20th instant, to their steam launch and lighter to proceed to Guiria for the purpose of conveying food to the employés, many of whom are British subjects, of the Company at Pedernales, you compelled the latter to pay the duties which would have been leviable on such goods when landed in Venezuela.

2. I have further to inform you that a complaint has also been made to his Excellency by Mr. Naysmith, Attorney for the Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France, that on his applying to you, on the 6th instant, for a clearance of the Company's lighter "Euterpe" for the purpose of conveying food to the Company's labourers employed on the Orinoco delta, that you refused to grant such clearance, and that you further threatened Mr. Naysmith that should the "Euterpe" be dispatched through the British Government or any other authority, she would be seized as soon as she proceeded outside the limits of British waters.

3. His Excellency will be glad to know whether these statements are correct, and, if so, on what authority rest your attitude and action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 92.

Señor Figueredo to Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

Honourable Sir,

May 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I am in receipt of letter, dated yesterday, which you have forwarded to me by order of his Excellency the Governor, with reference to the Orinoco Asphalt Company and Mr. Naysmith, agent for the Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France.

As the Undersigned acts as a dependent employé of the Venezuelan Government, and governs his actions in accordance with the laws of the Republic and superior orders which he receives, without transgressing either those of the Colony or those of Great Britain, it is very strange that the representatives of the said Companies in Trinidad should occupy your Excellency's attention with complaints foreign to the jurisdiction of your Excellency, seeing that there exists a legal way of presenting such complaints to the Government of Venezuela, before whom such accusations ought to be taken, and who will try the acts of the Undersigned as Consul of the Republic.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) C. B. FIGUEREDO,
Consul for Venezuela.

No. 93.

Mr. Dickson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord,

Bogotá, May 14, 1902.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a note which at my request the Colombian Minister for Foreign Affairs has been good enough to address to me on the subject of the status of the "Libertador."

I have, &c.
(Signed) SPENCER S. DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Señor Paúl to Mr. Dickson.

(Translation.)
Sir,

*Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Colombia,
Bogotá, May 7, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 2nd instant, in which you request, for the information of your Government, a reply to the following questions put by you:—

1. Is the vessel known as the "Libertador" the property of the Government of Colombia and recognized by the said Government as such?

2. Will the Government of Colombia undertake to prevent the said vessel from committing, in the future, acts of hostility against Venezuela so long as no state of war exists between Colombia and Venezuela?

With regard to the first point, I confirm what I stated to you verbally in a previous interview, viz., that the Government of Colombia regards the "Libertador" as its property by reason of having granted facilities to certain of its agents in Europe to purchase various ships of war, and that the above mentioned is one of the vessels which figure as having been bought for the use of the Republic.

With regard to the second point, I must point out to you that the Government will not authorize the said vessel to be used for the purpose of committing hostile acts against Venezuela so long as no state of war exists between the two Republics.

Orders have, moreover, been given that the "Libertador," formerly the "Ban Righ," shall proceed to Colombian waters for the purpose of stationing herself there. I therefore request that you will be so good as to inform His Majesty's Government that the Colombian Government would be obliged if permission could be granted for the said vessel to refit in Port of Spain and proceed from that harbour as soon after as the agents of the Republic may decide.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) FELIPE F. PAÚL.

No. 94.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 1, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th ultimo, forwarding a despatch, with inclosures, from the Governor of Trinidad, in which he calls attention to the destruction at Pedernales of the British vessel "In Time" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "General Crespo." Sir A. Moloney suggests that, on the return of His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable," the "General Crespo" should be seized and held until compensation shall have been made for the destruction of the "In Time" and other British vessels. He is also of opinion that the harbour of Port of Spain should be closed, until further notice, to the Venezuelan Navy.

Lord Lansdowne considers that stronger evidence would be necessary in order to justify so drastic a measure as the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boat. His Lordship thinks, however, that, in view of the circumstances described in Sir A. Moloney's despatch, Mr. Haggard might be instructed to inform the Venezuelan Government that, unless they are able to disprove the reports which have been received relative to the destruction of the "In Time," His Majesty's Government may be obliged to cease extending the hospitality of British ports to Venezuelan cruisers.

I am to inquire whether Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the issue of instructions in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 95.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 3.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, June 14, 1902.

IN my despatch of the 31st May, I had the honour to inclose a copy of a note to the Venezuelan Government, putting before them various complaints against the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul in Port of Spain, forwarded by the Governor of Trinidad.

The Venezuelan Government have made no reply to this note, and I have now the honour to inclose a further communication which I have addressed to them, putting before them two more statements as to the conduct of this official, and requesting to be favoured with the grounds on which he acted in the manner described.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Mr. Haggard to General Ferrer.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, June 14, 1902.

WITH reference to my note of the 31st ultimo on the subject of the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I am now informed by the Governor of Trinidad that that officer's attention had been drawn to the fact that a further complaint has been made to his Excellency by the Orinoco Asphalt Company that, before getting a clearance which was applied for on the 20th instant for their steam-launch and lighter to proceed to Guiria for the purpose of conveying food to the employés (many of whom are British subjects) of the Company at Pedernales, the Venezuelan Consul compelled the latter to pay the duties which would have been leviable on such goods when landed in Venezuela.

Señor Figueredo was further informed by the Colonial Secretary that a complaint had also been made to his Excellency by Mr. Naysmith, Attorney for the "Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France," that, on his applying to him on the 6th instant for a clearance of the Company's lighter "Euterpe" for the purpose of conveying food to the Company's labourers employed on the Orinoco delta, he had refused to grant such clearance; and that he further threatened Mr. Naysmith that, should the "Euterpe" be dispatched through the British Government or any other authority, she would be seized as soon as she proceeded outside the limits of British waters.

His Excellency requested to be informed if these statements were correct, and, if so, on what authority the attitude and action taken by Señor Figueredo rested.

I should be much obliged if your Excellency would be kind enough to favour me with the grounds on which Señor Figueredo acted in the manner described.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 96.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 3.)

My Lord,

Caracas, June 14, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th March, I have the honour to inclose further correspondence with reference to the seizure of the British ship "Indiana" on the Barima River. I have received no reply to my note of the 14th May, and, in view of the determination of the Venezuelan Government to refuse to entertain any question with His Majesty's Legation, save one in which they conceive their own interests to be concerned, I do not expect to do so until the present situation changes.

In the meanwhile, the Venezuelan Government are endorsing what would seem to be a gross outrage which has entailed the destruction of a British vessel.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Mr. Haggard to Governor Sir J. Swettenham.

Sir,

Caracas, April 25, 1902.

IN my despatch of the 9th February I had the honour of informing your Excellency that I would forward you the result of the inquiry promised by the Venezuelan Government into the matter of the seizure of the British sloop "Indiana" by Venezuelans in the waters of the Barima.

I have had a good deal of correspondence on this subject with the Venezuelan Government, but they have not as yet forwarded me the promised Report, and I have been waiting to reply to your Excellency's communications on this matter in the hopes of having something to report. I have now received your further despatch of the 21st March, inclosing the claim of the owner of the "Indiana" for compensation. This I will present to the Venezuelan Government on the first favourable opportunity.

In the present completely disorganized condition of the country I fear that it would be useless to do so at this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Mr. Haggard to General Ferrer.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, May 14, 1902.

IN the note from your Excellency's predecessor of the 4th February he was good enough to inform me that mine of the 16th and 29th January on the subject of the seizure in the waters of the Barima River within Venezuelan territory of a British sloop named the "Indiana" would be referred to the Department of the Interior in order that inquiries should be made into the case and the result obtained as quickly as possible.

In the former of my two notes I had informed his Excellency that the Governor of British Guiana had requested me to ascertain from the Venezuelan Government the grounds on which the "Indiana" had been seized and detained.

Further correspondence has passed between the Venezuelan Government and this Legation on this subject, but I regret to say that the result of the promised inquiry has not yet reached me. I have, however, been furnished by the Governor of British Guiana with much more sworn evidence proving, as would seem, the illegality of the seizure of the boat which was afterwards lost owing to that action. All this evidence is at your Excellency's disposal.

The Governor of British Guiana has now forwarded to me a claim against the Venezuelan Government made by Antonio Gonsalves Jardim for 2,000 dollars compensation for the loss of his ship.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this document in support of this claim, and to express the hope that the Venezuelan Government will lose no time in taking the necessary steps to compensate the owner of the "Indiana" to that amount for the loss of his ship through the action of their officers in the Barima River.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

P.S.—I also have the honour to inclose Jardim's solemn declaration of the facts on which he founds his claim for compensation, as well as that of Nathaniel Roberts, the captain of the "Indiana," giving an account of the facts.*

W. H. D. H.

* See Inclosures 3 and 6 in No. 99.

No. 97.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 3, 1902.

SATISFACTORY assurances have been received from the Colombian Government.

1. That they regard the "Libertador"—formerly "Ban Righ"—as their property; and

2. That so long as no state of war exists between Colombia and Venezuela the use of the vessel for the purpose of committing acts of hostility against Venezuela will not be authorized by them. They have further issued orders that the "Ban Righ" shall proceed to Colombian waters and be stationed in those waters.

In view of these assurances, the Governor of Trinidad has been informed that the refitting of the vessel in Port of Spain harbour and her departure to Colombian waters may be permitted.

No. 98.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 4, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 13th and 29th May and the 25th ultimo respectively, forwarding despatches from the Governor of Trinidad relative to the conduct of Señor Figueredo, Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain; and I am to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, the accompanying copy of a despatch which has been received from Mr. Haggard, His Majesty's Minister at Carácas, on the same subject.*

The matter has now been carefully considered by Lord Lansdowne, and I am to transmit to you the draft of a telegraphic instruction which, if Mr. Chamberlain concurs in that course, his Lordship proposes to address to Mr. Haggard.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 99.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 5.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 4, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, for such action as his Lordship may see fit to take, the accompanying copies of despatches from the Governor of British Guiana, with inclosures, on the subject of the seizure by the Venezuelan authorities of the British sloop "Indiana."

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

*Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Chamberlain.**Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,**March 22, 1902.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a claim for compensation, supported by statutory declarations, which has been addressed to me by the owner of the sloop "Indiana."

2. I have forwarded this claim to the British Minister at Carácas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Petition.

To his Excellency Sir James Alexander Swettenham, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral, &c.;

The humble Petition of Antonio Gonsalves Jardim, an inhabitant of the city of Georgetown, in the county of Demerary, and Colony of British Guiana;

Respectfully sheweth:

1. YOUR petitioner is an inhabitant of the city of Georgetown, and carries on business in the Stabroek Market, in the said city, as a shopkeeper.

2. Your petitioner was the owner of the British sloop "Indiana," of 17 tons, which was duly registered.

3. The said sloop left the port of Georgetown on the 13th December, 1901, for the port of Morawhanna, with goods for that port, and with empty barrels only for grants on Venezuelan territory in the Barima River, in which barrels goods were to be shipped from the said grants to Georgetown.

4. Your petitioner has frequently delivered empty barrels to the said grants for the purpose aforesaid.

5. The practice of delivering such empty barrels was well known to, and approved by, the Venezuelan authorities in the Barima.

6. No goods of any description other than the said empty barrels were on board the said sloop for delivery in Venezuelan territory.

7. Your petitioner was informed by the captain of the said sloop that she was seized in mid-stream in the Barima River, on the 16th December, 1901, by the Venezuelan authorities, it being stated by them that she had contraband goods on board.

8. On the 19th December, 1901, owing to the report of the seizure of the said sloop, your petitioner visited the Governor or presiding officer at his place of business at Amacuru, and saw the said sloop in his custody.

9. The said Governor or presiding officer stated that he was willing to deliver the said sloop to your petitioner, but on the representations of his secretary or attendant, who asserted that he saw contraband goods delivered from the sloop on Venezuelan territory, and who undertook the responsibility of detaining her, the said Governor or presiding officer withheld the said sloop from your petitioner.

10. Your petitioner was informed, and verily believes, that the said sloop has since been wrecked through the action of the Venezuelan authorities and their subordinates at Amacuru.

11. Your petitioner paid 550 dollars for the said sloop about three years ago, and expended about 300 dollars in repairs last year. She was in good order when she was seized.

12. The said sloop brought your petitioner, in her trading between the ports of Georgetown and Morawhanna, a net profit of 40 dollars per month.

13. It will be very difficult to acquire a similar sloop by purchase.

14. Your petitioner is informed, and verily believes, that it will cost him 3,500 dollars to build a new sloop of the same size and quality.

15. Your petitioner is informed, and verily believes, that the seizing of the said sloop in mid-stream is against the Award of the 3rd October, 1899, in connection with the settlement of the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana, by which ships of all nations were to enjoy the privilege of free navigation in the Barima River in time of peace.

16. Your petitioner has suffered, and continues to suffer, loss in consequence of the wrongful action of the Venezuelan authorities in the Barima River, which loss he estimates at 2,000 dollars, and prays that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to take such steps and to make such claim as may be necessary to recover the sum of 2,000 dollars from the Venezuelan Government, as indemnity and compensation to your petitioner in consequence of the circumstances narrated herein.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed)

ANTONIO GONSALVES JARDIM,
his X mark.

Witness to mark:

• (Signed) C. SKERRETT.

Demerary, the 15th day of March, 1902.

The petitioner relies on his Declaration, and that of Hannibal Johnson, forwarded herewith, and on the sworn statements taken by the Stipendiary Magistrate of the North-West District.

Inclosure 3 in No. 99.

Declaration by Antonio Gonsalves Jardim.

British Guiana, County of Demerary.

I, ANTONIO GONSALVES JARDIM, shopkeeper, of Lot 71, Murray Street, in the city of Georgetown, in the county of Demerary and Colony of British Guiana, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. I was the owner of the British sloop "Indiana," of Georgetown.
2. The said sloop was duly registered.
3. The said sloop left the port of Georgetown for the port of Morawhanna on the 13th December, 1901, with goods for that port and with empty barrels only for grants on Venezuelan territory in the Barima River, in which barrels goods were to be shipped from the said grants to Georgetown.
4. I have frequently delivered empty barrels to the said grants for the purpose aforesaid.
5. The practice of delivering such empty barrels was well known to, and approved by, the Venezuelan authorities in the Barima.
6. No goods of any description other than the said empty barrels were on board the said sloop for delivery in Venezuelan territory.
7. I am informed by the captain of the said sloop that she was seized in mid-stream in the Barima River on the 16th December, 1901, by the Venezuelan authorities, it being stated by them that she had contraband goods on board.
8. On the 19th December, 1901, owing to the report of the seizure of the said sloop, I visited the Governor or presiding officer at his place of business at Amacuru, and saw the said sloop in his custody.
9. The said Governor or presiding officer stated that he was willing to deliver the said sloop to me, but on the representations of his secretary or attendant, who asserted that he saw contraband goods delivered from the sloop on Venezuelan territory, and who undertook the responsibility of detaining her, the said Governor or presiding officer withheld the said sloop from me.
10. I am informed, and verily believe, that the said sloop has since been wrecked through the action of the Venezuelan authorities and their subordinates at Amacuru.
11. I paid 550 dollars for the said sloop about three years ago, and expended about 300 dollars in repairs last year. She was in good order when she was seized.
12. The said sloop brought me, in her trading between the ports of Georgetown and Morawhanna, a net profit of 40 dollars per month.
13. It will be very difficult to acquire a similar sloop by purchase.
14. I am informed, and verily believe, that it will cost me 3,500 dollars to build a new sloop of the same size and quality.

I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and according to the Statutory Declarations Ordinance of 1893.

(Signed) ANTONIO GONSALVES JARDIM,
his X mark.

Declared to at the city of Georgetown, this 15th day of March, 1902.

Before me,
(Signed) JAMES A. RICHARDSON,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

Inclosure 4 in No. 99.

Declaration by Hannibal Johnson.

British Guiana, County of Demerary.

I, HANNIBAL JOHNSON, of Lot 168, Upper Charlotte Street, in the city of Georgetown, in the county of Demerary and Colony of British Guiana, shipwright, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. I have been a shipwright for the last forty-two years.
2. I have carried on my own business as a shipwright for the last twenty-five years.

3. During the said period of twenty-five years I have built, rebuilt, and repaired numerous crafts of all sizes, from 100 tons downwards.

4. I knew the sloop "Indiana," 17 tons, of Georgetown, the property of Antonio Gonsalves Jardim.

5. About five years ago I surveyed the said sloop "Indiana" for the purpose of fixing her value for an intending purchaser.

6. I then valued the said sloop at 700 dollars, which sum was then her fair value.

7. The said sloop was then in fair condition.

8. After I valued the said sloop she was thoroughly repaired. I saw the repairs effected.

9. In thorough order the said sloop would be worth 1,200 dollars.

10. It would cost 3,500 dollars to build a sloop similar in size and quality to the said sloop "Indiana."

I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and according to the Statutory Declarations Ordinance of 1893.

(Signed) HANNIBAL JOHNSON.

Declared to at the city of Georgetown this 15th March, 1902,

Before me,

(Signed) JAMES A. RICHARDSON,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

Inclosure 5 in No. 99.

Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,

May 5, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, in continuation of my despatch No. 99 of the 22nd March, copies of two further statutory declarations which have been submitted by the owner of the sloop "Indiana" in support of the claim for compensation, copy of which was enclosed in that despatch.

2. The declarations have been forwarded to the British Minister at Carácas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Inclosure 6 in No. 99.

Declaration by Nathaniel Roberts.

British Guiana, County of Demerary.

I, NATHANIEL ROBERTS, of Pomeroon, in the county of Essequibo, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. I am a sailor, and was captain of the British sloop "Indiana," the property of Antonio Gonsalves Jardim, of this Colony.

2. On the 13th day of December, 1901, I left Georgetown with the sloop "Indiana" bound on a voyage to Morawhanna, in the county of Essequibo, with a cargo of flour, rice, sugar, beer, and other merchandise, consigned to shopkeepers at Morawhanna.

3. I had on board empty barrels to be delivered to grantholders on the Venezuelan side of the boundary, in which they were to ship goods to Georgetown.

4. I have frequently carried empty barrels to the grantholders on the Venezuelan side of the boundary with the full knowledge and consent of the authorities at Amacuro.

5. All the goods and merchandise on board were entered in the cargo book with the names of the persons to whom they were shipped.

6. All the goods and merchandise on board were delivered to the persons to whom they were shipped, all of whom were shopkeepers at Morawhanna.

7. It is not true that the cargo or any part of it was transhipped on the boundary into small boats to be introduced into the Amacuro territory.

8. Only the empty barrels were landed on the Venezuelan side of the boundary.

9. It is not true that I informed the Government Secretary of the Amacuro territory that I had landed merchandise on the Venezuelan side of the boundary.

10. On the 16th December, 1901, when the said Government Secretary went on board the sloop "Indiana," I was on shore, and went off on receiving a message sent by the said Government Secretary through Charles Grant, a sailor in the said sloop.

11. When I got on board the sloop, the said Government Secretary asked me if I had any papers. I said, "No." I showed him the cargo book, which was read to him by one of his men who acted as interpreter. He asked where I had landed the goods, and I told him at Morawhanna. I denied that I had landed goods on the Venezuelan side of the boundary; I told him I only brought empty barrels for grant-holders on his territory, in which they were to ship goods to Georgetown, and that I had made three previous voyages with empty barrels for this purpose with the consent and knowledge of the authorities at Amacuro.

12. The said Government Secretary then seized the vessel, and I was compelled to work the sloop under the direction of his men, who threatened to shoot me if I refused to do so. The men were armed with guns and swords.

13. The sloop was being taken to Amacuro, and during the night I escaped in a small boat, and made my way to Morawhanna.

14. The sloop was in good order, and had good anchor and anchor chains.

I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and according to the Statutory Declarations Ordinance of 1893.

(Signed) NATHANIEL ROBERTS, his x mark.

Declared to at the city of Georgetown, this 16th day of April, 1902.

Before me,

(Signed) A. E. MANNING,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

Inclosure 7 in No. 99.

Declaration by Charles Grant.

British Guiana, County of Demerary.

I, CHARLES GRANT, of Pomeroon, in the county of Essequibo, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. I am a boat hand, and was engaged by Antonio Gonsalves Jardim to work as a sailor in the sloop "Indiana."

2. On the 13th December, 1901, I left Georgetown in the said sloop bound on a voyage to Morawhanna, in the said county of Essequibo.

3. On arriving at Morawhanna all the merchandise on board was delivered to shopkeepers there.

4. We then proceeded to drop down the Barima River for the purpose of delivering empty barrels to certain grants on the Venezuelan side of the boundary.

5. It is not true that merchandise was transhipped into small boats to be introduced into the Amacuro territory.

6. On the 16th December, 1901, the Government Secretary of the Amacuro territory came on board the said sloop with several men, who were armed. The captain of the sloop was on shore.

7. The said Government Secretary sent me for the captain. I went for him.

8. When the captain went on board, the said Government Secretary asked him if he had papers allowing him to trade with Venezuela.

9. The captain said he had brought empty barrels for the grant-holders. He was charged by the said Government Secretary with landing contraband goods on Venezuelan territory, and denied it.

10. The said Government Secretary then seized the said sloop, and forced her crew to work under the directions of his men, who threatened to shoot us if we refused.

11. While the sloop was on her way to Amacuro the captain escaped in a small boat at night.

12. The sloop was taken to Amacuro and anchored there. While she lay there I saw the owner, Mr. Jardim, come to Amacuro.

13. After this, a black man—one of the men who had come on board the sloop with the said Government Secretary when she was seized, and who was armed with sword gun—came on board one night at 12 o'clock and told me and the other sailor belonging to the sloop—one Joseph Nickson—that he had orders to take the sloop to Bolivar, and that we were to work her. We refused, and said we wanted to return to Morawhanna. The black man threatened to shoot us if we did not obey him.

14. We lifted the anchor under the directions of this black man, who, while we were doing so, made a great noise with his cutlass, under the pretence of cutting the grass that surrounded the sloop.

15. No one took any notice of our moving, although it was a bright moonlight night, for the reason that the grass that surrounded the sloop always caused her to drag her anchor during the falling tide.

16. When we were under way, the black man who had taken command of the sloop told us he was going to Trinidad. We again declined to go there, and he again threatened to shoot us if we refused.

17. This black man did not know the coast, and was not capable of navigating the sloop, which, soon after we got out of the river, grounded on a beach.

18. All attempts to get her off were unavailing, and we took to the boats after spending four days on the beach, during which time we finished all the provisions we had.

19. The black man said we were to take him to Trinidad in the boats, and threatened to shoot us if we refused.

20. We stopped at an island, where the black man got information as to the course he should take to reach Trinidad. Only Indians lived on the island; they gave us some cassava.

21. The black man then compelled us to return to the sloop, from which he took the sails, ropes, blocks, and compass, and put them in the small boat. We then started for Trinidad without provisions of any sort.

22. The boat was under sail, the black man having put a small sail on board before we left Amacuro.

23. This black man is the same man who was charged with assaulting an Indian girl.

24. We were a day and a night before we reached Trinidad.

25. We landed at a small place in Trinidad about four hours' walk from Cedros, where the black man pawned the compass to a shopkeeper for bread and cheese, which he divided between us.

26. The Warden of this place kept the boat we used in his boat-house, and took the gun which the man had into his house, after which he took us by road to Cedros and handed us over to the sergeant in charge of the police-station there.

27. The sergeant took us to the Magistrate of Cedros, who took a statement in writing from the black man.

28. The black man told the Magistrate that he had bought the sloop from a Spaniard at Amacuro, that a storm had caused her to drag her anchor, and that she had been wrecked on a beach in consequence, causing him a loss of his canister, clothing, and money.

29. It is not true that we encountered a storm. The vessel was run aground through the ignorance of the black man, who had taken command and who was steering. He kept too near the shore.

30. The Magistrate of Cedros sent us on to Port of Spain.

31. From Port of Spain the black man was sent back to Cedros for the boat, and we were sent to Georgetown by the Government in a steamer.

32. I have not seen the black man since he was sent back to Cedros.

33. I and the other sailor who was with me did not tell the Warden and the Magistrate the truth, because the black man told us not to speak, and we were afraid of him.

I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and according to the Statutory Declarations Ordinance of 1883.

(Signed) CHARLES GRANT, his × mark.

Declared to at the city of Georgetown this 13th day of April, 1902.

Before me,

(Signed) A. E. MANNING,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

Inclosure 8 in No. 99.

Governor Sir J. Swettenham to Mr. Chamberlain.

*Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
May 31, 1902.*

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of two letters which I have received from the British Minister at Carácas with regard to the seizure by the Venezuelan authorities of the sloop "Indiana," referred to therein.

2. I would ask that you will, if you think proper, support by a representation to the Foreign Office the claim for damage preferred by the owner of the "Indiana," a copy of which was transmitted in my despatch No. 99 of the 22nd March.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Inclosure 9 in No. 99.

Mr. Haggard to Governor Sir J. Swettenham.

Sir,

Carácas, May 16, 1902.

I HAVE been desirous of presenting to the Venezuelan Government, on the first favourable opportunity, the claim of the owner of the "Indiana" for compensation for the loss of his vessel, owing to the action of their officials.

There has lately been a change of Cabinet here, and, although I am not sure that this can be looked upon exactly as a favourable opportunity for which I wished, as it may be advisable that the claim should at least be recorded, I have forwarded it to the Venezuelan Government in a note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

The documents copies of which I have thought for the moment sufficient to refer to the Government were :—

1. The petition of Antonio Gonsalves Jardim ; and
2. The declaration of Antonio Gonsalves Jardim, dated the 15th March, 1902, inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 21st March, 1902.
3. The declaration of Nathaniel Roberts, dated the 16th April, 1902, and inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 100.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 9.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 8, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of the Foreign Office letter of the 1st instant, relating to the alleged destruction at Pedernales of the British vessel "In Time" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Crespo."

Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the instructions which Lord Lansdowne proposes to send to Mr. Haggard, and on hearing that they have been sent he will cause a similar telegram to be sent to the Governor of Trinidad.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

No. 101.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 10.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 9, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of the Foreign Office letter of the 4th instant, on the subject of the conduct of

the Venezuelan Consul at Port of Spain, and to state that Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the instructions which the Marquess of Lansdowne proposes to give to His Majesty's Minister at Carácas with reference to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

No. 102.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 10, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 31st May and 14th June, and should wish you to present to the Venezuelan Government a protest against the action of M. Figueredo, their Consul at Port of Spain. You should at the same time state that no exequatur will be issued to him unless satisfactory assurances as to his future conduct are forthcoming.

No. 103.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 11, 1902.

I REQUEST you to warn the Venezuelan Government that His Majesty's Government may be forced to cease extending to Venezuelan cruisers the hospitality of British ports, unless the Government are in a position to disprove the reports relative to the destruction of the vessel "In Time."

No. 104.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 14, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, inclosing copies of despatches from the Governor of British Guiana with regard to the seizure by the Venezuelan authorities of the British sloop "Indiana" in the River Barima.

I am at the same time to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, copy of a further despatch from Mr. Haggard, His Majesty's Minister at Carácas,* who reports that he is unable to obtain from the Venezuelan Government a reply to his last communication to them on the subject.

In these circumstances, and in view of the present political situation in Venezuela, it appears to Lord Lansdowne that until the result of Mr. Haggard's representations has been ascertained, no further action can usefully be taken in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 105.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord,

Carácas, June 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the case of the "In Time."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Mr. Haggard to General Ferrer.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, June 21, 1902.

I REGRET to have to bring the following circumstances before the Venezuelan Government:—

On or about the 1st May the Venezuelan gun-boat "General Crespo," according to the sworn testimony of Joachim Rodriguez, supported by general knowledge and information, was at Pedernales, where the British ship "In Time" was lying with the sails unbent. A number of the crew of the "General Crespo" went on board the "In Time" and broke her up. She then drifted down the river and sunk about half-a-mile from her original moorings.

There does not appear to have been any provocation for this action, and I have the honour to request your Excellency to state, for the information of His Majesty's Government, the steps which the Venezuelan Government propose to take in view of what was apparently a wanton destruction by a Venezuelan gun-boat of a British vessel.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 106.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord,

Caracas, June 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Venezuelan Government, as well as one of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at La Guayra, forwarding affidavits with reference to the seizure by a Venezuelan man-of-war on the high seas of the British vessel "Queen," belonging to Grenada, on her way to Trinidad in ballast.

It appears that after seizure, the ship was towed into the Venezuelan port of Porlamar, there stripped of her sails and papers, and finally confiscated on a mere suspicion of having carried a cargo of arms, the crew being put on shore and left destitute.

I requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 18th instant, at the close of my note, to inform me of the steps that the Venezuelan Government intended to take with reference to this charge, in which more than one important question was involved, but I have received no reply to this inquiry.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

Declaration by John Patrice.

I, JOHN PATRICE, captain of the British sloop "Queen," of the Island of Grenada, hereby make the following declaration on oath:—

On the 12th May last I left Grenada in the "Queen," bound for Trinidad in ballast. There were two other men on board with me, Nelson and Willie Patrice. On the 15th we got becalmed 8 or 9 miles off the Venezuelan coast, about 20 miles east of Carúpano, where the wind and tide had brought us, and, on seeing a steamer approaching, we hoisted the British flag. It turned out to be the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador," which boarded us and took our clearance. I and one of my men were then taken aboard the steamer and carried to Carúpano, where we remained one day. The sloop was put in charge of two men (Venezuelans) from the "Restaurador," who, together with Willie Patrice—left on board—took it to Porlamar, Margarita. When the "Restaurador" got to Porlamar next evening we were released. We found that the sloop had been stripped of her sails and her papers had been taken away. I also lost 25 dollars in cash, and our good clothes and other belongings had disappeared. The Commandant at Porlamar then told me to go to Juan Griego, where I saw the Collector of Customs and the Fiscal Judge, who sent me back to Porlamar to fetch the sloop, giving me to understand that it would afterwards be delivered up to me. The sails were put back on the sloop, and, on my arriving at Juan Griego with it, accompanied by three Venezuelan soldiers, put on at Porlamar, I was told that the vessel

had been confiscated because I was suspected of having carried a cargo of arms. We then returned to Porlamar on foot, and led a precarious existence, for the Commandant refused us any assistance. We remained there twenty-seven days, until the captain of a Venezuelan sloop, called the "Maria de Lourdes," took pity on us and brought us to La Guayra, where we arrived this morning.

(Signed) JOHN ABRAHAM PATRICE.

We, the undersigned Nelson Patrice and Willie Patrice, declare on oath that the statements made by John Patrice in the foregoing affidavit are correct and true.

(Signed) NELSON PATRICE, his X mark.

WILLIE PATRICE, ditto.

Sworn to and signed by John Abraham Patrice, Nelson Patrice, and Willie Patrice at La Guayra on the 14th day of June, 1902, before me,

(Signed) L. SCHUNK, *British Vice-Consul*.

British Vice-Consulate.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

Mr. Haggard to General Ferrer.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, June 18, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a sworn declaration made by a British subject named John Patrice, captain of the British sloop "Queen," supported by the sworn declaration of Nelson Patrice and Willie Patrice, of the truth of John Patrice's statement, recounting the circumstances connected with the confiscation of that ship by the Venezuelan warship "Restaurador."

From this account it would appear that an English ship, trading between two English Colonies, was seized outside Venezuelan waters, *i.e.*, on the high seas, by a Venezuelan man-of-war; that she was towed into a Venezuelan port and stripped of her sails and her papers. She was finally confiscated on a mere suspicion of having carried a cargo of arms, the crew being put on shore and left destitute.

It is not necessary for me point out to your Excellency what a serious charge this is against the Venezuelan authorities, both those who captured the ship and those who were engaged in the subsequent proceedings which resulted in her confiscation. More than one important question is involved in this charge, and I should be much obliged if your Excellency will state to me, for the information of His Majesty's Government, the steps that the Venezuelan Government intend to take with reference thereto.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 106.

Vice-Consul Schunk to Mr. Haggard.

Sir,

La Guayra, June 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to send you inclosed the affidavit of a British subject named John Patrice, from which it appears that his vessel, a British sloop called the "Queen," was, on her voyage from Grenada to Trinidad in ballast, overhauled by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador," and sent first to Porlamar and then to Juan Griego in Margarita, where she was confiscated on a supposed charge of having brought arms to Venezuela.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. SCHUNK.

No. 107.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 20.)

(Telegraphic.)

Cardas, July 20, 1902.

VENEZUELAN Government state that their previous opinions are not modified by the assurances contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant, and they continue to protest against the vessel being recognized as other than a pirate by Great Britain.

They proceed to say that those assurances in no way invalidate their claim on His Majesty's Government from the moment when the "Ban Righ" left England with British papers and flying the British flag to that at which hostile acts were committed by her against this country, after having already been declared a pirate.

No. 108.

Memorandum on existing Causes of Complaint against Venezuela.

Case of seizures by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto."

It appears from the sworn evidence of ten witnesses examined before the Attorney-General of Trinidad that on the 21st January, 1901, four boats—three Venezuelan and one belonging to a British subject—were at Patos Island waiting for the tide on their way to Port of Spain laden with cocoa. The boats were of the usual class which trade between Port of Spain and the neighbouring ports of Venezuela, and appear on this occasion to have been simply carrying cargo and passengers in the ordinary way to Port of Spain.

There were some twenty-five persons altogether in the boats, sailors and passengers, including several British subjects.

On the morning of the 22nd the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" appeared off the island, and, after remaining close in shore for some hours, summoned the people who had landed from the vessels above referred to to come on board the "Augusto." This demand not being complied with, a force of some twenty armed Venezuelans under Colonel Torres was landed on Patos, and proceeded to remove the boats and collect their cargoes. About half the passengers and crew of the trading-boats were removed on board the "Augusto," the remainder taking refuge in the woods, where they were left without food, water, or means of leaving the island.

Representations were at once made by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Carácas with reference to this reported seizure and deportation of British subjects. A stringent inquiry was demanded, but, so far as His Majesty's Government are aware, no attention was paid to this demand.

Case of the "Sea Horse."

On the 26th February, 1901, John Craig, a fisherman of Trinidad, a British subject, proceeded to Patos in pursuance of his calling in his boat, the "Sea Horse." Having beached his boat and landed with his boat's crew on the island, he was followed by the crew of a Venezuelan Guarda Costa, armed with cutlasses and rifles, who beat one of his companions, fired at another, who, however, escaped unhurt, and finally seized the boat and its contents, leaving the men on the island without food or water. They were fortunately relieved by a passing boat two days later and taken back to Port of Spain.

In this case, a strong remonstrance was addressed to the Venezuelan Government in respect of the landing of an armed force on British territory, and the assault on the persons and seizure of the property of British subjects.

On the same occasion the "Buena Fé," a boat belonging to a Venezuelan citizen, resident in Trinidad, was seized under similar circumstances, and although the owner's nationality precluded support of any claim on his part, the interference with the boatmen and the seizure of the property on Patos Island constituted a grave violation of British territory.

The statements of fact were in each case supported by sworn declarations. The Venezuelan Government justified the action of their Guarda Costa by declaring that they considered Patos as belonging to Venezuela, and by stating that the "Sea Horse" was

thought to be engaged in smuggling. No proof of this was, however, adduced, nor did there appear to be any reasonable ground for the assumption. This plea was subsequently amended by the further statement that the "Sea Horse" was suspected of landing arms, but the Venezuelan version of the fact proves that she never touched the coast and could not therefore have landed arms, while it was not even alleged that, after being chased to Patos where she was seized, she had any arms on board.

The explanations offered after six months' correspondence were wholly unsatisfactory, and, as His Majesty's Minister states in his last despatch received on this subject, "no redress has been offered for an act which, even according to their own account (*i.e.*, that of the Venezuelan Government), and, if their assumed possession of the island be allowed, was one of unjustifiable violence."

Case of the "Maria Teresa."

In January 1901 the sloop "Maria Teresa," the property of a British subject, but flying the Venezuelan flag, was, when about to leave the Venezuelan port of Guiria, compelled to heave-to, and ordered to proceed to Trinidad, instead of to her destination at Yrapa on the mainland. On the "Maria Teresa" proceeding to follow these instructions she was boarded by a boat from the "Miranda," which took off the master and two sailors, and after seizing the property on board the "Maria Teresa" set on fire and completely destroyed her.

The Venezuelan Government, in justification of the "Miranda's" action, contended that the owner and master of the sloop had been actively engaged in assisting the revolutionists. Although the treatment of the British subjects on board the sloop afforded ground for remonstrance, His Majesty's Government, in view of these statements, which were not, however, supported by proof, forebore to press the matter strongly, as there was some evidence that the vessel had been in communication with, if not in the employ of, the revolutionary party. Further inquiry and explanations were promised.

Case of the "Pastor."

The case of the "Pastor," however, afforded still stronger ground for protest. On the 30th August last year the Venezuelan-owned sloop "Pastor" left Port of Spain with a cargo of goods and with three passengers, one of whom at least was a British subject.

There is some evidence to show that the "Pastor," in conjunction with three other boats of Venezuelan nationality, was engaged on a smuggling venture. On her arrival at Patos Bay, the Venezuelan revenue-boat "Totumo" appeared on the scene, and after examining the papers and cargo of the "Pastor" landed some of her crew on the island, seized and carried on board goods which had been there deposited by the "Pastor," and took the men engaged in the expedition as prisoners. She subsequently fired on the "Pastor," when that vessel was still in British waters.

The correspondence exchanged with the Venezuelan Government with reference to this incident made it clear that they were determined to consider and to treat Patos as belonging to the Republic. In these circumstances, it was thought expedient to record a formal protest against this renewed and gross violation of British territorial waters by a Venezuelan gun-boat—which the facts that the "Pastor" was a Venezuelan vessel, and had infringed the Customs Regulations of Trinidad, were not held in any way to justify.

His Majesty's Minister accordingly made a strong remonstrance with reference to this incident, but the Venezuelan Government stated that they could not make any investigation with regard to the violation of British territory, as they considered Patos Island, on which the violation of territory occurred, as their own legitimate possession.

Case of the "Indiana."

A further case of the violation of British rights occurred in January last in the seizure and detention of the British-owned and registered sloop "Indiana" in the River Barima, within Venezuelan territory, the waters of which are by the terms of the Anglo-Venezuelan Boundary Award open to the navigation of all nations in time of peace.

In this instance the vessel, which carried only a cargo of empty barrels used for the conveyance of corn to the market of Georgetown, was suspected of smuggling,

seized and carried into the Venezuelan port of Amakuru, the captain escaping in a native canoe.

There was no evidence to support this charge of smuggling, and the Colonial authorities, to whom the case was reported, point out that the confiscation of the vessel was an excessively severe penalty for any infraction of the Customs laws, if such were deemed to have occurred.

The representations made to the Venezuelan Government have hitherto failed to elicit any explanation.

Case of the "In Time."

A more recent instance of a similar character is the destruction of the British vessel "In Time" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "General Crespo," in the Venezuelan harbour of Pedernales on or about the 1st May last.

It appears that on the arrival of the gun-boat "General Crespo" in Pedernales orders were given to seize all craft in port, and this was done. No provocation or justification of this order has been assigned. The "In Time" was then fired on by the gun-boat, and an armed party from the "Crespo" boarded her and broke her up. She subsequently drifted down the river and sank.

In connection with this case, His Majesty's Minister was instructed to inform the Venezuelan Government that unless they could disprove the reports received as to the destruction of this vessel, His Majesty's Government might be obliged to cease extending the hospitality of British ports to Venezuelan cruisers.

The Venezuelan Government have protested against the "menacing tone" of this communication, which they consider "inadmissible," even as a simple notification.

Case of the "Queen."

The seizure on the high seas of the British ship "Queen," of Grenada, reported by His Majesty's Minister in June, is the latest instance of such unwarrantable interference.

In this case it appears, from sworn evidence, that the vessel, while on her voyage from Grenada to Trinidad in ballast, was overhauled by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador" some 20 miles off Carupano; that after the seizure the "Queen" was towed into the Venezuelan port of Porlamar, there stripped of her sails and papers and finally confiscated, on a mere suspicion of having carried a cargo of arms to Venezuela, the crew being put on shore and left destitute.

The master and one of the crew, after remaining there twenty-seven days, obtained a passage on a Venezuelan sloop, and found their way to La Guayra, where they reported themselves to the British Vice-Consul.

The facts having been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty's Minister, he at once addressed a representation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and requested "to be informed what steps the Venezuelan Government intended to take with reference to this charge, in which more than one important question was involved."

The action of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad, Señor Figueredo, has also given rise to grave complaints with reference to his issuing irregular clearances, exaction of improper fees and charges, and assumption of unwarranted authority by the collection of customs dues for Venezuela in Trinidad.

He has, further, in some cases, refused to accept dispatch of vessels for Venezuela, on the ground that they belonged to persons who were not acceptable to the Venezuelan Government, and in others is stated to have placed every sort of hindrance in the way of the dispatch of vessels, thus seriously prejudicing the trade of British subjects at Trinidad.

M. Figueredo's conduct was brought to notice especially in connection with his refusal to dispatch the British registered lighter "Euterpe," belonging to the "Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France," when he informed the Company that if the vessel was otherwise dispatched she would be seized or sunk as soon as she was outside British waters.

His Majesty's Minister has been instructed to protest against M. Figueredo's action, and to inform the Venezuelan Government that unless satisfactory assurances were forthcoming, no exequatur would be issued to their Consul. Of this communication no notice has been taken.

Besides these specific outrages and grounds of complaint, there are cases in which British subjects and Companies have large claims against the Venezuelan Government.

The Venezuelan Government decline to accept the explanations and assurances of His Majesty's Government with regard to the "Ban Righ" as in any way modifying the situation. As a result, the position of His Majesty's Legation at Carácas has been rendered for diplomatic purposes quite impracticable, as all representations, protests, and remonstrances now remain disregarded and unacknowledged.

Foreign Office, July 20, 1902.

No. 109.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 23, 1902.

THE German Ambassador spoke to me to-day about the state of affairs in Venezuela. I told his Excellency that we had various causes of complaint against the Venezuelan Government, and that we intended to obtain satisfaction for the claims of British subjects. We should be quite ready to confer with the German Government with a view to joint action.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 110.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 29, 1902.

THE liberty and property of British subjects have, in a succession of cases, been interfered with in a wholly unwarrantable manner by the Venezuelan Government. The following incidents have been the subject of serious consideration by His Majesty's Government:—

The action of the gun-boat "Augusto" in seizing and deporting certain British subjects in January 1901; the seizure of John Craig's boat and property on Patos Island in the February following; the similar interference on the same occasion in the case of the "Buena Fé," which was accompanied by violation of territory; and the cases of the vessels "Maria Teresa," "Pastor," "Indiana," and "In Time."

No satisfactory explanations have been received from the Venezuelan Government in any of these cases. The destruction of the British ship "Queen" is a still more flagrant instance of such interference.

His Majesty's Government cannot tolerate a continuance of the conduct which culminated in the last-mentioned incident, and you should address a formal protest respecting it to the Venezuelan Government. You should intimate to the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in unmistakable terms, that unless His Majesty's Government receive explicit assurances that incidents of this nature shall not recur, and unless the Venezuelan Government promptly pay to the injured parties full compensation wherever satisfactory evidence has been furnished to His Majesty's Government that such is justly due, His Majesty's Government will take such steps as may be necessary to obtain the reparation which they are entitled to demand from the Venezuelan Government in these cases, as well as for any loss to British subjects caused by the unjustifiable conduct of the Acting Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad, and on account of the railway claims.

No. 111.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 2.)

My Lord,

Carácas, July 12, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th June, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note which, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's

telegram of the 11th instant, I have addressed to the Venezuelan Government, informing them that, unless they are able to disprove the reports which His Majesty's Government have received relative to the destruction of the British ship "In Time," they may be obliged to cease extending to Venezuelan cruisers the hospitality of British ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, July 12, 1902.

IN my note of the 21st ultimo, I had the honour of informing your Excellency's predecessor that on or about the 1st May, a number of the crew of the "General Crespo"—a Venezuelan gun-boat—went on board the schooner "In Time," which was lying at Pedernales, at anchor, with her sails unbent and destroyed her.

I at the same time asked his Excellency to be good enough to inform me as to the steps which the Venezuelan Government proposed to take in view of what was apparently the wanton destruction by a Venezuelan gun-boat of a British vessel.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the affidavit of Joachim Rodriguez—a witness of this occurrence,—whose testimony is, I may add, not unsupported.

I regret that I should have received no reply to my communication, and I am now instructed by telegraph, by the Marquess of Lansdowne, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to inform the Venezuelan Government that, unless they are able to disprove the reports which His Majesty's Government have received with reference to the destruction of the British ship "In Time," they may be obliged to cease extending to Venezuelan cruisers the hospitality of British ports.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Affidavit of Joachim Rodriguez.

I, JOACHIM RODRIGUEZ, master of the open boat "Dios te Salve," hereby make oath and say as follows:—

About six days ago I was at Pedernales with my boat, and saw the gun-boat "Crespo" arrive about 11 A.M. Before anchoring, she fired two shots (cannon) into the village. After anchoring, two boats' crews of about twenty men put off from the "Crespo," and seized two large boats and several small ones.

I saw the schooner "In Time" at anchor, the sails unbent. Two British subjects, whose names I do not know, left the schooner as soon as the "Crespo" fired at the village, leaving nobody on board. I was on shore hiding, about 300 yards from the "In Time."

One of the "Crespo's" boats boarded the "In Time," hoisted her anchor, and towed her to the "Crespo," and made her fast to that vessel. Several small boats were destroyed—all in the port, in fact; then the crew of the "Crespo" turned their attention to the schooner, a number of men going on board, carrying implements, the exact nature of which I was too far away to identify. By their movements on board (making the motion of striking) I knew that they were breaking up the vessel. Meanwhile, she was being towed down the river by the gun-boat and gradually getting lower in the water. After going about half-a-mile—the "Crespo" having cast her off about a mile from the "Crespo's" original anchorage—the hull of the schooner disappeared, her masts remaining visible.

I did not see her again.

I am an American citizen, and was born in Boston. I have been in Venezuela since I was 9 years old.

My own boat I, this deponent, had previously secreted in a creek, and she escaped destruction.

(Signed) JOACHIM RODRIGUEZ, his × mark.

Sworn at the Court-house in the town of Port of Spain, in the Island of Trinidad, the 7th day of May, 1902, the contents of this affidavit having been by me fully explained

to the deponent. and he having understood the same, and having placed his mark thereto in my presence.

Before me:
(Signed) ERNEST D. CLARK,
Commissioner of Affidavit.

No. 112.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 2.)

My Lord,

Caracas, July 13, 1902.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant on the subject of the steam-ship "Ban Righ," I lost no time in addressing the note to the Venezuelan Government, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have also the honour to state that I have received no answer to this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Mr. Haggard to General Ferrer.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, July 4, 1902.

IN my note of the 8th April, I had the honour of informing your Excellency's predecessor of the friendly intentions of His Majesty's Government towards that of Venezuela with reference to the "Ban Righ." These were briefly that, unless the Colombian Government gave assurances:—

1. That the vessel in question is a Colombian public ship; and
2. That she will not in future be allowed to take part in any hostile acts against Venezuela, she would not be allowed to refit in Port of Spain; and, in a *note verbale* of the next day's date, I added that it would be necessary to await the result of the communications with the Colombian Government.

I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that I have learnt from the Marquess of Lansdowne, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the result of those communications is that His Majesty's Government have received satisfactory assurances from the Colombian Government: firstly, that the "Ban Righ" belongs to them; in the second place, that, so long as no state of war exists between Venezuela and Colombia, they will not authorize her being used for the purpose of committing hostile acts against this country.

I have further been informed by his Lordship that orders have been issued that the ship shall proceed to and be stationed in Colombian waters, and that the Governor of Trinidad has been instructed to permit her to refit at Port of Spain and to proceed to those waters

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 113.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 2.)

My Lord,

Caracas, July 13, 1902.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 9th ultimo I addressed a note to the Venezuelan Government, stating that His Majesty's Government cannot admit that there is any connection between the question of the Bolivar Railway and that of the "Ban Righ," and cannot acquiesce in the attempt of the Venezuelan Government to postpone dealing with other pending questions until that of the "Ban Righ" is disposed of.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received no answer to this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 114.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

Caracas, August 5, 1902.

IN reply to the representations made in accordance with your telegram of the 29th July, the Venezuelan Government state that, in their opinion, some of the cases mentioned have been already settled; and that, in consequence of the partiality towards the revolutionaries displayed by the Government of Trinidad, and pending a settlement of the complaints relative to the "Ban Righ," they have determined to postpone the others.

They reiterate that they cannot entertain other cases unconnected with the "Ban Righ" until that case is satisfactorily settled; with regard to it they refer to their previous decisions. They further state that the conduct of the Acting Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad must necessarily be taken into consideration in relation to the friendly attitude of the colonial authorities towards the revolutionaries.

The alternative given by His Majesty's Government is ignored.

No. 115.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 8, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that for the past two years His Majesty's Government have had grave cause to complain on various occasions of unjustifiable interference on the part of the Venezuelan Government with the liberty and property of British subjects.

The successive instances which have occurred since the beginning of last year are set forth in the accompanying Memorandum.* No efforts have been spared by Mr. Haggard, His Majesty's Minister at Caracas, in his endeavours to obtain an amicable settlement of these cases. In none of them have satisfactory explanations been forthcoming, and latterly the representations of His Majesty's Minister not only received no attention, but remained unnoticed.

The destruction of the British ship "Queen," reference to which will be found in the Memorandum, was considered so flagrant a case that it was felt that a continuance of such conduct could no longer be tolerated.

A telegram, copy of which is inclosed,† was accordingly sent to Mr. Haggard, instructing him to record a formal protest against the conduct of the Venezuelan Government, and to intimate in unmistakable terms to the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs that unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not recur, and unless full compensation were promptly paid to the injured parties wherever shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government to be justly due, they would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation to which they were entitled.

A telegram, copy of which is also inclosed,‡ has been received from Mr. Haggard, conveying the reply of the Venezuelan Government to this protest. It will be seen that no practical attention has been paid to the remonstrance of His Majesty's Government, and that the threat to take such steps as may be necessary to exact reparation has been ignored.

Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the time has arrived when stronger measures must be resorted to for the purpose of bringing the Venezuelan Government to a sense of their international obligations. His Lordship would, therefore, be glad to be favoured with the views of the Lords Commissioners as to the most effectual and convenient manner of putting pressure on the Venezuelan Government.

I am to add that, in conversation with Lord Lansdowne, Count Metternich, the German Ambassador, has suggested that the Powers concerned should take part in a joint naval demonstration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

* No. 108.

† No. 110.

‡ No. 114.

No. 116.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and is directed by the Secretary of State to transmit, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a despatch from the Acting Governor of Trinidad, with inclosures, on the subject of the seizure of the British sloop "Queen" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador."

Downing Street, August 11, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in 116.

Acting Governor Knollys to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, July 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the British sloop "Queen" is said to have been seized by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador" on the high seas between Grenada and Trinidad on or about the 12th May.

2. I inclose copies of evidence given by two of the crew—the only ones who have come to Trinidad.

3. I suppose this matter will be also reported by the British Minister at Carácas and the Governor of the Windward Islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Evidence of John A. Patrice.

JOHN A. PATRICE, sworn, saith:—

I was the master of the British sloop "Queen," which left Grenada on the 12th May last for the Island of Trinidad in ballast, with a crew of three, including myself. On the way down, when we were about 30 miles from the mainland of Venezuela, I saw a steamer heading towards us, but could not make her flag out. I immediately heaved to and exhibited my flag (red ensign). By this time I discovered her to be the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador."

She ran up alongside of my vessel and boarded us, and the captain ordered me to go on board the gun-boat. I immediately did so, accompanied by my cousin, Nelson Patrice (who formed one of the crew). I showed him my clearance from the Collector of Customs at Grenada, which he kept; he then detained us on board, and dispatched two men from the gun-boat to take charge of the sloop with instructions to head her for Margarita; the "Restaurador" then proceeded to Carupano; the captain gave me no reason for acting in this manner. When the gun-boat arrived at Carupano on the 15th, she remained there for a day and left next evening for Margarita; during that time we were well-treated on board. On arriving at Margarita the captain landed us, and then left immediately for sea. I saw my sloop inbended [*sic*] anchored in the harbour; all my things, among which was the sum of 25 dollars, as well as those of the crew, had been removed, as had also the sails, lamp, &c., belonging to the sloop. I went to the Collector of Customs there, and told him all that had happened, and what the captain of the "Restaurador" had done to us; but he said he could do nothing until he had communicated with the Minister at Juan Griego. We waited eighteen days for an answer, and not hearing from him, we walked to that place from Margarita and had an interview with the Minister. I explained to him what took place, and he then said, "I will give you a despatch." He then handed me a letter addressed to the Commandant at Margarita, which I gave to him on my arrival at that place; he opened it and read it, and told us to "fix up everything." We did so, replacing what was given to us back on the sloop. After this, the Commandant ordered us on shore, and gave instructions to have us put in prison. Next morning, in the company of three armed soldiers, we were placed back on the sloop "Queen."

I was then ordered by the Commandant and soldiery to set sail for Juan Griego, and arrived there on a Monday morning; I do not remember the exact date. We

were accompanied on shore by the soldiers, and brought to the Minister of that place. We explained to him our position, and he told us, through an interpreter, that the vessel belonged to the Government, but that he would let us go free. We then walked back again to Margarita, remained there for twenty-seven days, and begged a passage to La Guayra, and from thence came on to Trinidad by the Royal Mail steamer, and on our arrival reported the circumstances to the harbour-master.

(Signed) JOHN A. PATRICE.

Taken and sworn to at Port of Spain at Trinidad, this 2nd day of July, 1902.

Before me :

(Signed) A. S. BOWEN,
Justice of the Peace.

Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

Evidence of George Patrice.

GEORGE PATRICE, sworn, saith :—

I was one of the crew of the British sloop "Queen," and am a cousin of the master, John A. Patrice.

On the 12th May last we left Grenada for Trinidad in ballast, and when nearing that place the wind fell, and we drifted towards the coast of Venezuela. We were about 12 miles from Carupano when we sighted a steamer coming towards us from the west. She had no colours flying, but when she neared us we made her out to be a Venezuelan gun-boat, and she hoisted her colours; we were already flying the red ensign. She then came alongside of us, and we made her out to be the gun-boat "Restaurador."

They did not tell us anything when they ran alongside, but sheered off, and sent a boat with six men in it to board us. When they got alongside they came on board and ordered the master, John A. Patrice, to get in and go with them on board the gun-boat. Patrice took his clearance from the Collector of Customs at Grenada, to show to the captain of the "Restaurador." A little while after the boat returned with some men, who were put in charge of the sloop, and the other man, William Patrice, and myself were taken on board the gun-boat. We were kept on deck, and an armed guard was placed over us. We were fairly well treated, but once or twice they made signs to us to the effect that when we reached Margarita we should be hanged. The steamer then went to Carupano, and the sloop was ordered to proceed to Margarita. We reached the former place at about 3 A.M. on the 16th May last, and left about 7 o'clock in the evening for Margarita, reaching there at 10 o'clock the same night. We were then taken on shore and left on the wharf. On the next morning the gun-boat left the port, and we then went on board of the "Queen," which had reached there on the previous day. We found no one on board, but the sails, &c., had been unbanded. A little while after some soldiers came and searched the vessel, and we were taken prisoners and conveyed on shore and brought before the Commandant, but he did not tell us anything. We were allowed to go free, and stayed with a man by the name of George Cato, a native of Grenada; we spent twenty-seven days with him.

During that time we went to Juan Griego, and laid our case before the Governor of the town. He took our names, and gave us a letter to the Commandant of Margarita, which we delivered. We were then ordered to go on board the sloop and bend the sails. Three soldiers were sent on board, and we were made to navigate the "Queen" to Juan Griego. When we got there the Governor of that place told us that our vessel had been seized and belonged to the Venezuelan Government. We were then set free, and started back to Margarita, and begged a passage by a sloop to La Guayra, where we saw the British Consul and reported the matter to him. He then provided us with a passage to Trinidad.

(Signed) GEORGE PATRICE, his × mark.

Taken and sworn to at Port of Spain, Trinidad, this 2nd day of July, 1902.

Before me :

(Signed) A. S. BOWEN,
Justice of the Peace.

Witness to mark :

(Signed) E. F. AANENSEN.

No. 117.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 14.)

My Lord,

Cardcas, July 17, 1902.

IN my despatch of the 12th instant, I had the honour of forwarding a copy of the note which, by your Lordship's instructions, I addressed to the Venezuelan Government, informing them that, unless they were able to disprove the reports which His Majesty's Government had received with reference to the destruction of the British ship "In Time," the latter may be obliged to cease extending to Venezuelan cruisers the hospitality of British ports.

I have now the honour to inclose a translation of the reply of the Venezuelan Government, protesting against the "menacing tone" of your Lordship's communication, "which is incomprehensible to them, as the action in question would be not only at variance with, but in open opposition to, the friendly commercial and political relations which exist between Venezuela and Great Britain."

The note goes on to say that, therefore, the Venezuelan Government consider the warning of His Majesty's Government as "inadmissible, even as a simple official notification."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Señor Baralt to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Cardcas, July 16, 1902.

IN your note of the 12th, your Excellency refers to a matter which had already formed the subject of a former one of a recent date, and sends a declaration about it upon which that note is based, which makes allegations against a Venezuelan gun-boat. You state finally that, unless the reports received about this affair are refuted or disproved, His Majesty's Government may find themselves obliged to discontinue offering the hospitality of British ports to the cruisers of Venezuela. The Government of the Republic cannot refrain from expressing their surprise at, and making their protest against, the menacing tone of this expression, which is incomprehensible to them, as the action in question would be not only at variance with, but in open opposition to, the friendly commercial and political relations which exist between Venezuela and Great Britain. Accordingly, in the opinion of the Government, your Excellency's expression is inadmissible, even as a simple official notification.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) R. LOPEZ BARALT.

No. 118.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 14.)

(Extract.)

Cardcas, July 19, 1902.

IN my despatch of the 13th instant I had the honour to forward a copy of a note, in which I conveyed to the Venezuelan Government that His Majesty's Government had received satisfactory assurances from the Colombian Government, firstly, that the "Ban Righ" belonged to them, and, secondly, that, so long as no state of war existed between Venezuela and Colombia, they would not authorize her being used for the purpose of committing hostile acts against Venezuela, and, further, that orders had been issued that the ship should proceed to and be stationed in Colombian waters; and that the Governor of Trinidad had been instructed to permit her to refit at Port of Spain and to proceed to those waters.

I have now the honour to inclose a translation of the reply of the Venezuelan Government to that communication.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Señor Baralt to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, July 16, 1902.

IN the communication which your Excellency addressed on the 4th instant to General Ferrer, you forwarded to the Venezuelan Government by direction of His Majesty's Government the result of inquiries with reference to the ship "Ban Righ," which your Excellency yourself had promised this Department on the 8th April. The Vice-President charged with the Executive Power has taken note of the full assurances which the Government of His Majesty has given with reference to that ship, but these do not alter for the Government of Venezuela the point of view from which it has, from the beginning, regarded that ship, and which now compels it to protest solemnly against her being recognized by Great Britain as one which is not to be considered as outside international law.

In like manner, the above-mentioned assurances cannot restrict nor detract in the slightest manner from the rights claimed by Venezuela arising from former circumstances from the time of the dispatch of the "Ban Righ" from English ports with the English flag and papers until the subsequent committal by that boat—already declared a pirate—of acts directly prejudicial to the commerce, peace, and general interests of the Republic.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) R. LOPEZ BARALT.

No. 119.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 14.)

My Lord,

Caracas, July 27, 1902.

IN my despatch of the 13th July I had the honour of stating to your Lordship that I had on the 4th instant addressed a note to the Venezuelan Government, stating that His Majesty's Government could not admit that there was any connection between the question of the Bolivar Railway and that of the "Ban Righ," and could not acquiesce in the attempt of the Venezuelan Government to postpone dealing with other questions until that of the latter was disposed of.

I have the honour to state that I have not yet received any reply to my note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 120.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 15.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, August 14, 1902.

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 8th instant, in which you refer to the numerous instances of unjustifiable interference on the part of the Venezuelan Government with the liberty and property of British subjects, and state that, in the opinion of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the time has now arrived when stronger measures than those heretofore adopted must be resorted to, for the purpose of bringing that Government to a sense of its international obligations.

If it should be decided by His Majesty's Government to put pressure on Venezuela in order to obtain satisfaction for the acts of aggression committed by that country on British shipping or against British interests, my Lords would be prepared to direct the Commander-in-chief on the North America and West Indies Station to establish a blockade of such ports on the Venezuelan coast as may be selected for this purpose, on the understanding that the blockade should be deferred until November, when the unhealthy season is over.

The places selected for blockade would be La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, and possibly three other ports where railways terminate, and also the port of Maracaibo, which is visited by a larger number of vessels than any other port on the Venezuelan

coast. Some, if not all, of these ports could be effectively blockaded by the present squadron on the Station.

Should His Majesty's Government as a matter of policy consider it desirable to adopt the suggestion of the German Ambassador, that "the two Powers concerned should take part in a joint naval demonstration," their Lordships consider that a blockade in Venezuelan waters would be the best method of giving effect to it.

No. 121.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and is directed by the Secretary of State to transmit, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, with reference to the letter from this Department of the 11th instant, a copy of a despatch on the subject of the seizure of the British sloop "Queen" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador."

Downing Street, August 19, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Acting Governor Sir C. Knollys to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Government House, Trinidad, July 31, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to forward the inclosed copy of a statement made by John A. Patrice, owner of the sloop "Queen," which was seized by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Declaration by John Augustus Patrice.

I, JOHN AUGUSTUS PATRICE, having been duly sworn, say :—

I am a British subject, and was born in Carriacou in the year 1869. I am the sole owner of the sloop "Queen," built for me in Carriacou in the year 1899 by Jacob Patrice. The vessel is of 9 tons burden, and cost me 800 dollars. There is no mortgage upon her.

Until April this year I worked on the coast of Grenada, and did not register the vessel. In April 1902 I registered her at the Customs House, St George's, Grenada, as I desired to trade inter-colonially.

I first went to St. Vincent, then to St. Lucia, then I returned to Grenada; and I was on my way to Trinidad when seized by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador."

My certificate of registry, as well as all of my other papers, was taken from me, and though I asked specially for the return of that document, I did not obtain it, nor have I since obtained it.

(Signed) JOHN A. PATRICE.

Sworn before me at Port of Spain, Trinidad, this 28th day of July, 1902.

(Signed) A. S. BOWEN,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 122.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 28.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, August 1, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the note which I addressed to the Venezuelan Government embodying the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship

in your telegram of the 29th ultimo, to record a formal protest with regard to the past intolerable conduct of the Venezuelan Government in interfering with the liberty and property of British subjects, and to intimate in unmistakable terms that, unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not recur, and unless full compensation were paid promptly to the injured parties wherever it was shown, to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government, that such compensation was justly due, they would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation which they have the right to demand in these cases, as well as on account of the claims against the Venezuelan Government of the British Railway Companies, as also for any loss caused by the unjustifiable conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad.

I took this note in person to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and carefully translated it to him word for word, at the same time explaining and enlarging on it in terms about which there could certainly not be any possible mistake. At the close of each sentence I asked his Excellency if he thoroughly understood it, and satisfied myself that he did so. I pointed out to him the extreme gravity of the communication, and said that he would thoroughly understand that it could only have been made after full and serious consideration, not only as to the communication itself, but as to the consequences which it involved; that, in fact, His Majesty's Government meant what they said, and that they did not use such words without fully intending to act up to them in case of need.

I therefore begged him to consider, and specially to induce the President to consider, the note very earnestly in view particularly of the serious consequences which might be expected to follow the refusal of the Venezuelan Government to comply with the just demands of His Majesty's Government.

His Excellency accepted the note quietly; his final remark was that they were used to these communications. I said that that might be the case, but not from England; that his Excellency must bear in mind that we had been extraordinarily patient, that His Majesty's Government were slow in taking such a weighty decision, but that they had the power to execute it when once taken.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, July 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that I have been informed by His Majesty's Government that they have had under their serious consideration a succession of cases in which the Venezuelan Government have interfered with the property and liberty of British subjects in a wholly unwarrantable manner.

They enumerate the following instances which have occurred since the beginning of last year:—

That of the seizure and deportation by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" of British subjects; that of the seizure of the boat and property of John Craig, on the Island of Patos; the case of the "Buena Fé," which involved a similar interference and violation of Treaty; that of the "Maria Teresa," that of the "Pastor," that of the "Indiana," and that of the "In Time." Satisfactory explanations have not been forthcoming in any of these cases.

The confiscation of the British ship "Queen" appears to His Majesty's Government to be a still more flagrant case.

It is not possible, His Majesty's Government consider, to tolerate a continuance of conduct which, in this last incident, reached a climax; and they have consequently instructed me to record a formal protest with reference thereto, and to convey to his Excellency the President, and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in terms about which there can be no mistake, that, unless explicit assurances are received by His Majesty's Government that such incidents shall not occur again, and that unless full compensation be paid promptly to the injured parties wherever it be shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government that such compensation be justly due, they will take such steps as they may consider to be necessary to exact the reparation which they have the right to demand in these cases, as well as on account of the claims of the British Railway Companies in Venezuela, as also for any loss caused by the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad, for which there is no possible justification.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 123.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 28.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, August 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the note which I have received from the Venezuelan Government in reply to that of which I had the honour to inclose a copy in my despatch of the 1st instant, embodying the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship to record a formal protest with regard to the past intolerable conduct of the Venezuelan Government in interfering with the liberty and property of British subjects, and to intimate in unmistakable terms that, unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not occur again, and unless full compensation were paid promptly to the injured parties wherever it was shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government that such compensation was justly due, they would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation which they have the right to demand in these cases as well as on account of the claims against the Venezuelan Government of the British Railway Companies, as also for any loss caused by the unjustifiable conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad.

The Venezuelan Government in their note state that they considered that some of the claims—such as the capture of John Craig's boat and the proceedings against the "Maria Teresa"—were altogether done with. They state that another of these—that with reference to the Island of Patos—had been settled for some time by the Venezuelan Government without His Majesty's Government having offered any legal refutation to their decision, *i.e.*, as to the possession of the island, and that the rest of those enumerated by your Lordship were already settled or in the course of settlement, *i.e.*, decided *ex parte* by the Venezuelan Government, although the replies to the representations of His Majesty's Legation with reference to them had been postponed owing to circumstances which it was not necessary to dwell on, *i.e.*, their refusal to entertain any other save those connected with the "Ban Righ."

Dr. Baralt, in the next paragraph, states that he does not consequently judge the moment opportune to answer this last representation any more than the previous ones, and then defines absolutely the reason for this—that the Venezuelan Government had decided to postpone the reply to all such representations from the time of the perpetration of the injuries caused by the "Ban Righ," and since that of the open partiality of the Trinidad authorities in matters prejudicial to the peace of Venezuela.

The next paragraph is practically a repetition in different words of the last, and refers me to previous Venezuelan notes, in which they made and repeated their statement limiting the relations between His Majesty's Legation and the Venezuelan Government.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs then goes on to reiterate the statement in brief and definite terms that, until this matter is settled satisfactorily to the interests of both nations, the Venezuelan Government cannot entertain any other on a different subject.

His Excellency then states that the conduct of the Acting Consul at Trinidad is a matter to be considered in relation with the partiality of the Colonial authorities. The Venezuelan Government would thus seem to practically indorse and accept the responsibility for his misconduct in words which seem to strengthen the belief that this was actually instigated by them.

Your Lordship will see that no allusion whatever is made to the statement at the close of my note as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government to exact reparation from the Venezuelan Government unless it was spontaneously made by them.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Señor Baralt to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, August 2, 1902.

YOUR Excellency's note of the 30th July, which I received on the 1st instant, contains a résumé of complaints and claims on different subjects, some of which, such as the capture of John Craig's boat and the proceedings against the sloop "Maria Teresa," the Government of the Republic had considered as altogether disposed of. Another of these, relating to the Islet of Patos, has been settled for some time by the Government of

Venezuela without the slightest opposition being made by Great Britain on legal grounds, and the rest were already settled, or on the road to a settlement, even although an answer relating to them had been postponed owing to circumstances which need not again be dwelt on, as they are well known to His Majesty's Legation. The Chief of the Executive Power is consequently surprised both at your Excellency's putting forward these facts, and at the general tone of your note; and, in spite of all the questions which it raises, he does not consider it advisable to answer it immediately, owing to the fact that the Venezuelan Government decided to postpone dealing with matters of that and of an analogous character, from the time when the "Ban Righ" committed her injurious acts and the Trinidad authorities showed such open partiality, in a sense hostile to the peace of Venezuela.

The surprise of the Chief of the Government is the more justifiable inasmuch as your note raises a variety of questions, some of which have already been disposed of. And the British Legation could surely not have considered the present a favourable opportunity for discussing even those questions which are still pending with this Government, seeing that no settlement has yet been arrived at relative to the complaints and remonstrances laid before Great Britain in consequence of the action of the "Ban Righ," and of the attitude of the British authorities in connection with that vessel. Your Excellency is aware that the right which supports Venezuela on this point is upheld by proofs preserved in the archives of this Ministry, and you also know by the Venezuelan notes of the 28th February, of the 8th and 13th March, and of the 5th April last, that from that time the Venezuelan Government decided to postpone dealing with any other matters pending with the British Legation until the settlement of the "Ban Righ" question, which is so ardently desired by the Venezuelan Government with a view to preserving their friendly relations with that of His Majesty.

This is, therefore, the occasion to state anew to your Excellency that, so long as a matter of such importance is not settled satisfactorily to the interests of both nations, this Ministry cannot entertain others which are entirely foreign to that object.

The conduct which in your note you attribute to the Consul in Trinidad is a matter which may be considered in relation with the partiality of the Colonial authorities.

(Signed) R. LOPEZ BARALT.

No. 124.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 12.)

My Lord,

Cardenas, August 23, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the "In Time," the Acting Governor of Trinidad has been good enough to forward me two more affidavits of witnesses of that outrage, confirming that of Joachim Rodriguez, so there can now be no doubt whatever about the case.

I observe also that one of these, J. Mozziconacci, declares in addition that the "In Time" was flying the British flag when she was seized and sunk.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 125.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 10.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 10, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a letter, dated the 27th ultimo, from the Commander-in-chief on the North America and West Indies Station, relative to the measures in his opinion necessary to carry out the proposed naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela.

My Lords desire me to state that they anticipate no difficulty in giving effect to Sir Archibald Douglas' proposals, should they meet with Lord Lansdowne's concurrence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS, *pro Sec.*

Inclosure in No. 125.

Vice-Admiral Douglas to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Ariadne," at Halifax, September 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Admiralty letter dated the 4th September last, directing me to be in readiness to carry out a naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela in conjunction with ships of the Imperial German Navy.

With reference to the second paragraph of the letter above quoted, be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I think it will be necessary, in order to bring effective measures to bear on the Venezuelan Government, to blockade the ports of La Guayra, Porto Cabello, and Maracaibo, and other ports on the Venezuelan coast where railways terminate.

The most convenient time to commence operations will be towards the end of November, when the Newfoundland fishery season will have concluded, and the vessels at present employed on that division will be available.

I propose, subject to the approval of their Lordships, to place Commodore Montgomerie, of the "Charybdis," in charge, with the following vessels under his orders:—

"Tribune,"	Torpedo-boat destroyers—
"Retribution,"	"Quail" and
"Indefatigable."	"Rocket;" and
"Columbine" (special service vessel).	

The "Alert" and "Fantome" will also be available if required.

Having discussed the situation with Captain C. H. Robertson, C.M.G., of the "Pallas," who has recently been employed as Senior Naval Officer of the Barbados Division, and spent some considerable time in Venezuelan waters, and who is well acquainted with the state of affairs in that country, I would submit, as an alternative scheme to the blockade, that all the Venezuelan gun-boats should be seized and retained until our demands are complied with.

No. 126.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and is directed by the Secretary of State to transmit, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a despatch from the Acting Governor of Trinidad on the subject of the Colombian ship of war "Bolivar," formerly "Ban Righ."

Downing Street, October 14, 1902.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Acting Governor Sir C. Knollys to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Extract.)

Government House, Trinidad, September 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Colombian ship of war "Bolivar," formerly "Ban Righ," which entered at this port on the 23rd March last, and which has formed the subject of much correspondence, having effected such repairs as were absolutely necessary, left for Cartagena on the night of the 19th instant.

No. 127.

Memorandum communicated to the German Ambassador.

HIS Majesty's Government have within the last two years had grave cause to complain of unjustifiable interference on the part of the Venezuelan Government with the liberty and property of British subjects,

In three instances the objects of this interference were British trading vessels from the Colony of Trinidad, which were pursued by Venezuelan guardacostas on a suspicion of smuggling or trading in arms, and this plea was made the excuse for a violation of British territorial waters, the seizure of the property of British subjects, and in one instance the wilful destruction of the vessel.

In two further cases a similar unsupported charge was made the excuse for the seizure, and confiscation or destruction of British vessels in Venezuelan waters; while incidents of this nature reached their culminating point, when, on the 30th June last, the British ship "Queen," while on her voyage from Grenada to Trinidad, was overhauled by a Venezuelan gun-boat on the high seas off Carupano, stripped of her sails and deprived of papers, and finally confiscated on a bare suspicion of having carried a cargo of arms to Venezuela, the crew being put on shore and left destitute.

No efforts had been spared by His Majesty's Minister at Carácas in each of the earlier cases to obtain an amicable settlement, but in none of them had satisfactory explanations been forthcoming. On the occurrence of the still more flagrant interference with the "Queen," it was felt that a continuance of such conduct could not be tolerated, and His Majesty's Minister at Carácas was instructed on the 8th August to record a formal protest against the action of the Venezuelan Government, and to intimate clearly to the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs, that unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not recur, and unless full compensation were promptly paid to the injured parties wherever shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government to be justly due, His Majesty's Government would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation which they were entitled to demand in these cases, as well as on account of the claims of the British Railway Companies, and for any loss arising out of the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad.

With reference to the two later points, it may be mentioned that there are several British Railway Companies in Venezuela which have large claims against the Government in respect of services rendered, damage done to property by Government troops, and in some instances for default of guarantee or loss by depreciation of Government Bonds; while with regard to M. Figueredo, the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad, it may be stated that his conduct has given rise to the gravest complaints on the part of the Trinidad Government, both on account of the irregularities in the discharge of his Consular functions, and his assumption of unwarranted authority by the collection of customs duties for Venezuela within the British Colony of Trinidad.

The reply of the Venezuelan Government to the formal protest of His Majesty's Minister practically ignores the remonstrances of His Majesty's Government, while it makes no allusion whatever to the threat that they may be compelled to take steps to obtain reparation for the wrongs complained of.

The reply is based on the decision come to by the Venezuelan Government to postpone any reply to all representations on the part of His Majesty's Government from the time of the injuries caused by the "Ban Righ," so long as the situation created by the dispatch of that vessel from this country continued.

In connection with the already well-known case of the "Ban Righ," it may be explained that the vessel was detained for some time under surveillance in British waters, and was only allowed to leave the Port of London in January last after examination of her papers and cargo, on receipt of an assurance from the Colombian Representative at this Court that the vessel was intended for the service of his Government, and after ascertaining that no state of war existed between Colombia and Venezuela.

His Majesty's Government had in these circumstances no further ground for detaining the vessel, and the fullest explanations were afforded to the Venezuelan Government on the subject.

In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the Venezuelan reply, His Majesty's Government are compelled to consider what steps may be necessary to enforce their demands, but before proceeding to ulterior measures they propose to intimate their regret at the manner in which their representations have been received, and to state that they are unable to admit that the serious causes of complaint put forward can be disposed of by a refusal to discuss them, and that if such a refusal is persisted in, it will become their duty to consider what steps they should take in view of such refusal for the protection of British interests. His Majesty's Government are, however, unwilling to exclude at once all possibility of proceeding with negotiations, and they are therefore ready to consider any further communication which the Venezuelan Government may be prepared to make.

As the German Government have expressed their willingness to unite with His Majesty's Government in putting pressure upon Venezuela, they may perhaps think it

expedient to associate themselves with His Majesty's Government in this preliminary step, and in such case they may be disposed to instruct their Representative at Carácas to inform the Venezuelan Government that the Imperial Government are aware of the communications which have passed between this country and Venezuela, and that the British and German Governments have determined to act together in pressing the claims of their subjects upon the attention of Venezuela.

Foreign Office, October 22, 1902.

No. 128.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 22, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the North American and West Indies Station relative to the measures which are in his opinion necessary to carry out the proposed naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela.

The alternative courses suggested by Sir A. Douglas have been carefully considered, and as the establishment of a blockade appears open to some objection, his Lordship is disposed to think that it will be found most convenient, in the event of the Venezuelan Government remaining obdurate, to adopt the suggestion of seizing all the Venezuelan gun-boats until the British demands are complied with.

No. 129.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord,

Carácas, October 2, 1902.

ON the 1st ultimo I addressed to the Venezuelan Government the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, on the receipt of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Puerto Cabello, informing me that a British subject, named Martin Gransaul, had been imprisoned during the previous seven months in the prison called the "Castillo Libertador," in that town, on suspicion of having been mixed up in public politics.

A month having elapsed without my having received any reply to my communication, I think it my duty to bring the matter before your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Carácas, September 1, 1902.

THE British Vice-Consul at Puerto Cabello has informed me that a British subject named A. Martin Gransaul has been imprisoned during the last seven months in the Castillo Libertador, in that town.

Mr. Kolster informs me that, having applied for the release of this man, he had been informed that he could only be set at liberty by order of the chief authorities at Carácas.

There does not appear to be, according to Mr. Kolster, any accusation of crime against this man, the only pretext for his imprisonment apparently being a suspicion of his having been mixed up in public politics.

I should be much obliged if your Excellency would cause inquiries to be made into this matter and, in the event of Mr. Kolster having been misinformed and of Mr. Gransaul having been duly tried and convicted for some criminal offence, I should be much obliged if you would kindly cause me to be furnished with the data of the legal proceedings taken against him and of his conviction, and informed of the period of time for which he is condemned, and the offence on which he was arraigned.

If, however, there are no such records, and this British subject has actually been suffering this long imprisonment without trial, I would apply to your Excellency with confidence to cause the necessary steps to be taken to bring about his immediate release, and to bring to justice the local authorities guilty of this illegal and arbitrary act against a British subject.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 130.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord,

Caracas, October 2, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which, on the 10th ultimo, I addressed to the Venezuelan Government on a report from His Majesty's Acting Consul here with reference to the cutting and maiming of a British subject named John Jones by the Caracas police. Some days after the receipt of this note, the Minister for Foreign Affairs sent me privately, by an official of the Foreign Office, a letter which he had received from the Home Department, stating that John Jones had been wounded in a general riot and that justice was following its course—or words to that effect. I thereupon called on Dr. Lopez Baralt, thanked him for his communication, and asked him to be good enough to make it official; pointing out, at the same time, the serious nature of the wounds which John Jones had received, and that nothing could justify such treatment by the civil authorities.

The Venezuelan Government, acting up to their announced intention of refusing to treat officially any complaint put forward by His Majesty's Legation—however well justified—have sent no reply to my note.

Mr. Andral tells me that he has seen the man since, and that he is a cripple. He cross-examined him, and he maintains the truth of his sworn statement. Under these circumstances, I have thought it my duty to lay this matter before your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, September 10, 1902.

I REGRET to have to bring the following circumstances before your Excellency:—

His Majesty's Acting Consul having been informed that a British subject named John Jones was in the hospital, Vargas, suffering from severe wounds inflicted on him by a Venezuelan official, proceeded there on the 1st instant, and took his deposition on oath, to the following effect:—

That on the 28th ultimo he had a quarrel at the Estado Sarria, and had returned to his dwelling there, when after a while the Civil Chief, named Mattei, with Felipe Flores and Gregorio Avila rushed into his room and attacked him with cutlasses, severing one of the fingers of his left hand and wounding him severely on the same arm and one of his legs.

I would venture to call your Excellency's special attention to the conduct of the Jefe Civil in question who attacked this British subject with two accomplices, inflicting upon him, according to the statement of the doctor by whom his wounds were dressed, "numerous cutlass wounds, two of which are of a serious character, and require operation," and would suggest that nothing could justify such brutality on the part of officials, even supposing that the man merited arrest.

I lay these circumstances before your Excellency, in the confidence that you will lose no time in causing such steps to be taken as shall, in the first place, ensure this Government official and his two accomplices receiving a fitting punishment for their cruelty and abuse of their position.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 131.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 25, 1902.

YOU should make another representation with respect to the case of John Jones, and state that you have been instructed by His Majesty's Government to urge the Venezuelan Government to see that justice is done.

No. 132.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 25, 1902.

YOU should address to the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs a note stating that the case of Martin Gransaul has been reported to His Majesty's Government, and that they have directed you to ascertain what has been the result of the inquiries which the Venezuelan Government were requested to make. You should add that His Majesty's Government have a right to insist on the prisoner being tried or at once set at liberty.

No. 133.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, October 28, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd instant relative to the measures which, in the opinion of the Commander-in-chief on the North American and West Indies Station, are necessary to carry out the proposed naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that they do not anticipate any serious difficulty in giving effect to Sir A. Douglas' alternative proposal, viz., to seize all the Venezuelan gun-boats until the British demands have been satisfied.

No. 134.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 11, 1902.

I SHOULD wish your Excellency to obtain an interview with Mr. Hay at an early date, and to make a communication to him in the following terms:—

His Majesty's Government have, within the last two years, had grave cause to complain of unjustifiable interference on the part of the Venezuelan Government with the liberty and property of British subjects. Every effort was made, but without result, to obtain an amicable settlement. In June last a British ship was overhauled on the high seas, and eventually confiscated, on a bare suspicion of having carried arms to Venezuela.

It was felt that a continuance of such conduct could not be tolerated, and His Majesty's Minister at Carácas was instructed to record a formal protest, and to intimate clearly to the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs that unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not recur, and unless full compensation were promptly paid wherever shown to be justly due, His Majesty's Government would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation which they were entitled to demand in these cases, as in others where endeavours to obtain redress had proved of no avail.

The reply was wholly unsatisfactory, and practically ignored the remonstrances of His Majesty's Government.

In view of the nature of this reply, His Majesty's Government are compelled to consider what course it may be necessary to pursue in order to enforce their demands. But, before proceeding to ulterior measures, they have decided to intimate their regret

at the manner in which their representations have been received, and to state that the serious complaints put forward cannot be disposed of by a refusal to discuss them. If such a refusal is persisted in, it will become their duty to consider what steps they should take for the protection of British interests. They are, however, unwilling to exclude at once all possibility of proceeding with negotiations, and are therefore ready to consider any further communication which the Venezuelan Government may be prepared to make.

No. 135.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 11, 1902.

MAKE a communication in the following terms to the Venezuelan Government in the form of a note :—

His Majesty's Government regret the unsatisfactory character of the reply to the representations contained in your note of the 30th July. They are unable to admit that the serious causes of complaint put forward can be met by a refusal to discuss them.

If such a refusal is persisted in, it will become the duty of His Majesty's Government to consider what steps they should take for the protection of British interests.

They are, however, unwilling to exclude at once all possibility of proceeding with negotiations, and they are, therefore, ready to consider any further communication which the Government of the Republic may be prepared to make.

No. 136.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 11, 1902.

THE German Ambassador informed me this evening that the German Government were prepared to join with us in addressing a final warning to the Venezuelan Government, and I communicated to him the substance of my telegram to Mr. Haggard of this day's date. I had thought it better not to delay making this intimation, which was, as he would observe, couched in general terms, but I undertook to telegraph at once to Mr. Haggard, desiring him to put himself in communication with his German colleague.

With regard to measures of coercion, the German Government were prepared to accede to our suggestion that the first step should be the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boats, and they proposed that we should instruct our naval authorities in those waters to concert a plan for carrying out this project.

As to the joint execution of measures of coercion, the German Government recognized that there was a sharp distinction between the character of the British and German "first-line" claims; nevertheless, the two claims ought to stand or fall together, and we ought to exclude the possibility of a settlement between Venezuela and one of the two Powers without an equally satisfactory settlement in the case of the other. Each Government ought, therefore, to come to an understanding before it embarked upon a project of coercion that neither Government should be at liberty to recede except by mutual agreement; and before common action was initiated, we ought to come to a distinct agreement to this effect.

I told Count Metternich that it seemed to me only reasonable that if we agreed to act together in applying coercion, we should also agree that each should support the other's demands, and should not desist from doing so except by agreement.

No. 137.

Memorandum communicated by Count Metternich, November 13, 1902.

(Translation.)

IN the first class of claims Germany demands the settlement of her claims arising out of the Venezuelan civil war of 1898-1900, amounting approximately to 1,700,000 bolivares (francs). England, in the first instance, puts forward claims on account of the illegal removal and destruction of English merchant-ships.

In the event of the two Powers having recourse to coercive measures, they would both make further demands. Germany would demand the settlement of her claims arising out of the present Venezuelan civil war, amounting at the present time to approximately 3,000,000 bolivares, and also the guaranteeing of the claims of the German creditors, especially those of the Disconto Gesellschaft, amounting to approximately 41,000,000 bolivares. England would likewise assert the demands of her subjects, especially the claims of the English railways in Venezuela on account of damage to their lines, and failure to meet deferred liabilities.

These claims of the second class would be combined according to their several natures by the adoption of the joint proposals (recently agreed upon by the Disconto Gesellschaft and the several groups of English creditors interested) for the settlement of the Venezuelan Loans of 1881 and 1896. These proposals, which were communicated with the statement of the Disconto Gesellschaft of the 9th October last, were submitted at the same time by the English Council of Foreign bondholders to the British Government, who promised the Council that they should be carefully examined.

The German Government is of opinion that these proposals are just, and may therefore be considered as a suitable basis for a settlement of the Venezuelan External Debt.

Among the above-named proposals is contemplated the floating of a new loan limited to 15,000,000 bolivares, with the same securities as the loans of 1881 and 1896. The object of this loan would be to enable the Venezuelan Government to guarantee a settlement of the foreign claims, especially the German and English ones, the payment of which would otherwise be attended with difficulties.

It is understood that in the event of the joint adoption of the proposals made by the Anglo-German creditors, the British Government will also make itself responsible for as much of the loan of 1881 as is in English hands.

London, November 13, 1902.

No. 138.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 13.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, November 13, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to Mr. Hay this morning the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant.

His Excellency stated, in reply, that the United States' Government, although they regretted that European Powers should use force against Central and South American countries, could not object to their taking steps to obtain redress for injuries suffered by their subjects, provided that no acquisition of territory was contemplated.

No. 139.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and is directed by the Secretary of State to transmit to him, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a despatch and its inclosure from the Acting Governor of Trinidad on the subject of the casualty to the British sloop "Racer," and her subsequent seizure by the Venezuelan authorities at Carupano.

Downing Street, November 15, 1902.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Acting Governor Knollys to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Trinidad, October 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the sworn statement of James David relative to the casualty to the British sloop "Racer" on her voyage from Port of Spain to Mayaro, on the east coast of Trinidad, and her subsequent seizure by the Venezuelan authorities at Carupano. The master also declares that his vessel was boarded by armed men near Carupano, and he and his crew robbed of all their belongings.

Copies of Mr. David's statement have been forwarded to the British Minister at Carácas and to the Governor of the Windward Islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Declaration by James David.

*Trinidad and Tobago, Town of Port of Spain and the Western
District of the County of Saint George.*

I, JAMES DAVID, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

I am the master of the British sloop "Racer," trading round this Colony. I left here in my vessel last Monday, the 22nd of last month, bound for Mayaro, and when a couple of miles off the Grand Bocas a squall struck us and dismasted the vessel, and my brother, who was a sailor on board, was struck by the falling mast, and was killed on the spot. On Tuesday night (23rd September, 1902) I sighted the French steamer "Ville de Tanger" in view of land, and hailed her. She lowered a boat, which came alongside the sloop, with an officer in charge. He did not come on board, but spoke to us from the boat. I asked him whether the French captain would tow us up to Port of Spain, but he refused to do so, as he thought the authorities would blame him, and that he was late, but said he would take the crew on the steamer, but abandon the sloop with the dead body on board. I refused this offer, and the French steamer left us, and we drifted towards the Venezuelan coast. As we got near to the coast boats from on shore boarded us, with armed men on board, and robbed me and my sailors of all we possessed, including 37*l.* which I had in my trunk, and when we got to Carupano the harbour-master came alongside and asked me what I wanted here. I told him that the sloop was dismasted, and had drifted to his port. He then left the sloop, and went on board a Venezuelan gun-boat which was then in the harbour. Some time after he returned, and told me that I must not land, and he went on shore. An hour afterwards he came off to me again, and told me in English, "Come ashore with all your men." I did so, and I was brought with my men to the custom-house, and questioned as to how and why I got into Carupano. Eventually men from the Customs were sent from on shore, and they seized my sloop. After she was seized I asked the authorities there to send me up to Port of Spain, but they refused to do so. The large French mail-steamer was then in Carupano, and we took passage by her, and arrived in Port of Spain last Tuesday morning.

I made this Declaration, conscientiously believing this to be true and according to the Statutory Declaration Ordinance, 1879, and I am aware that, if there is any statement in this Declaration which is false, in fact, which I know or believe to be false or do not believe to be true, I am liable to fine or imprisonment.

Subscribed and declared to by the above-named declarant, this 2nd day of October, 1902, at the Port of Spain Police Court, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

(Signed) JAMES DAVID.

Before me,

(Signed) J. B. WALKER,

*Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the Town of Port of
Spain and the Western District of the County of
St. George, in Trinidad.*

No. 140.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 17, 1902.

THE German Ambassador being absent from London in attendance upon His Majesty the German Emperor, Count Bernstorff called here to-day at my request and was informed that His Majesty's Government quite concur in the view that, if joint action against Venezuela is undertaken, it should be maintained until the demands of both Governments, as finally agreed upon, are satisfied.

In the first place, however, it was necessary to arrive at an understanding with regard to the form in which the British and German claims should be put forward, and also with regard to the manner in which the demands made upon Venezuela should be enforced.

The British claims, as Count Metternich presumed, were capable of classification. Those on account of the recent cases of unjustifiable interference with the liberty and property of British subjects, including the shipping claims, would rank first. Claims for injury to British property during the late revolution, and that which placed President Castro in power, would come next; and in the third place the claims of the bondholders.

His Majesty's Government did not, however, desire, in their demands upon Venezuela, to draw a distinction between the various categories. Their object was to obtain a general settlement, and they were of opinion that to advance one class of claims, or at this stage to specify any particular amount, would diminish the chance of securing in all cases the reparation which they considered to be justly due.

If, therefore, the answer of the Venezuelan Government to the communication recently addressed to them should prove unsatisfactory, or if, after a reasonable interval, it should appear that no answer at all would be returned, His Majesty's Government would propose to proceed to measures of coercion and to seize the gun-boats.

If the seizure of the gun-boats should not produce the desired effect, it would, of course, be necessary to decide what should be the next step. This point would be carefully considered.

On receiving the submission of the Venezuelan Government, and on learning that they were prepared to admit their liability on every count, His Majesty's Government would for their part exact immediate payment of the pressing claims in the first category, according to estimates approved by His Majesty's Legation at Carácas, or by the British Colonial authorities. They would then consent to the heavier claims being referred to a small Mixed Commission of three members in case the Venezuelan Government should have any considerations to urge in mitigation of the damages claimed. An arrangement of this nature would be equitable as regards the Venezuelan Government, and would, moreover, prevent pressure being exercised in cases, such as might possibly occur, where the Venezuelan member of the Commission could prove a claim to be unfounded or excessive.

Count Bernstorff promised to report these suggestions to his Government at once.

No. 141.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 17, 1902.

THE Council of Foreign Bondholders and the Disconto Gesellschaft have recently been in communication with regard to the settlement of the external debt of Venezuela, and have agreed upon the bases of an arrangement. They have asked for the support of their Governments in pressing their claims upon the Government of Venezuela.

No request for the intervention of His Majesty's Government on behalf of the bondholders was made until September last; their claim was, therefore, of course, not included among those for which satisfaction was demanded in July. His Majesty's Government are, however, desirous of giving assistance, and believe that the most effective way of doing so will be to support the representations which the German Government intend to make, and to join in urging the Venezuelan Government to accept the proposed arrangement.

Count Bernstorff explained that the last paragraph of the Memorandum of the 13th December was intended to clear up a doubt, entertained by the representative of the Disconto Gesellschaft now in London, as to whether His Majesty's Government were prepared to recognize claims arising out of the Loan of 1881. He was told that some misunderstanding had occurred. A settlement of the claims connected with this loan formed part of the arrangement, which His Majesty's Government were prepared to support.

No. 142.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Caracas, November 17, 1902.

IN reply to my note sent in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, the Venezuelan Government express their regret that it might be inferred that the Venezuelan complaints with regard to the "Ban Righ" and to the attitude taken up by the authorities of the Colony of Trinidad had not been examined by His Majesty's Government, as if this had been the case those complaints would not have been attributed to caprice on the part of Venezuela.

Attention is called to the "eagerness of His Majesty's Government or of His Majesty's Legation to discuss matters of comparatively secondary importance," when contrasted with the paramount interest felt by Venezuela in obtaining due recognition and respect for her claims, which arise from the grave injuries caused by the "Ban Righ" and the facilities afforded to the revolutionaries by the Colonial authorities in Trinidad.

They add that Venezuela has done nothing contrary to courtesy or international law, and that she cannot, therefore, justly be held responsible for the present situation.

The Venezuelan Government would be much gratified if His Majesty's Government would express some desire to come to an understanding by which the injuries caused by the "Ban Righ" and by the authorities of Trinidad would be remedied, and they maintain that their claims in connection with those two subjects have hitherto been met by "the most unfair refusal of His Majesty's Government to consider the matter."

The note continues with a statement that the Venezuelan Government have gravely considered the serious nature of the injuries which have resulted from the treatment of the "Ban Righ" and the action of the Trinidad authorities, and that they ask nothing from Great Britain which is not a legitimate consequence of the situation thereby created. They therefore appeal to the sense of fairness of His Majesty's Government to effect a settlement of the present abnormal and regrettable situation by placing matters on a basis of mutual agreement.

No. 143.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord,

Caracas, October 28, 1902.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th October, instructing me to call attention again to the case of John Jones, and to say that His Majesty's Government had instructed me to urge that justice should be done in the matter, I addressed the note to the Venezuelan Government, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

From this note your Lordship will see that the man was undoubtedly brutally treated and is consequently a cripple for life.

On the other hand, I have made personal inquiries into the matter and am inclined to think it possible that Jones may not have been wholly blameless. Nothing, however, would seem to justify his being set upon by a number of police and maimed with cutlasses in the way in which I have described.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 143.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, October 27, 1902.

HAVING received no official reply to my note of the 10th ultimo on the subject of the wounds inflicted by the local police on the British subject John Jones, I was compelled to report the matter to His Majesty's Government, and have now received instructions by telegraph from the Marquess of Lansdowne, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to call your Excellency's attention again to the case and to urge that justice should be done.

I may add that I have myself seen this man, who has lately been discharged from hospital. The description of his maimed condition, which I gave your Excellency in my last note, was in no way exaggerated. He is, in fact, a cripple for life and can never do another day's work. Even supposing, therefore, that he had given some provocation to the police of which I have, as yet, received no proof, they must greatly and brutally have exceeded their duty in setting upon this man with cutlasses and wounding him in such a terrible manner, and I would suggest that your Excellency may think that, in any case, some compensation should be given him for his injuries and to help to support him in his disabled condition.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 144.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord,

Caracas, October 28, 1902.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th October, instructing me to ask what had been the result of the inquiries into the case of Martin Gransaul, who had been reported to me by the British Vice-Consul at Puerto Cabello as having been imprisoned in that town on suspicion of being engaged in politics, and to add that His Majesty's Government had a right to demand that the accused should be brought to trial or liberated at once, I addressed the note to the Venezuelan Government, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, October 27, 1902.

HAVING received no reply to my note to your Excellency of the 1st September, in which I requested you to be good enough to cause inquiries to be made into the case of a British subject named Martin Gransaul, who was reported to have been imprisoned during the previous seven months in the Castillo Libertador at Puerto Cabello on suspicion of his having been mixed up in politics, I was compelled to bring the matter before His Majesty's Government, which I did on the 2nd instant.

I have now been instructed by telegraph by the Marquess of Lansdowne, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to ask your Excellency to inform me of the result of those inquiries.

I am to add that His Majesty's Government have a right to demand that this accused British subject should either be brought to trial or else immediately liberated.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 145.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord,

Caracas, October 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I addressed on the 13th instant to the Venezuelan Government protesting against the impressment into the army of a British subject, named John Alexander Sampty.

These cases are unfortunately too frequent, but, as it may happen sometimes they are the result of mistaken identity, I do not, as a rule, if the men are released at once, through my intervention or otherwise, treat the matter officially.

In this case, however, there was no such excuse. The man had his certificate of nationality on him when impressed, and showed it ineffectually. He was, however, threatened with death if he refused to march with the other soldiers. I therefore considered it my duty to address a protest to the Venezuelan Government on this subject, in the hopes that the result might be that some action would be taken to warn the press-gangs to be careful not to impress British subjects.

Here in the capital a pressed man can generally succeed in communicating with me or with His Majesty's Consul before being marched off, but in the country districts he has no such chance, and, doubtless, many a coloured British subject has thus lost his life or been crippled in the constant civil wars which devastate this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD

Inclosure in No. 145.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, October 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to lay the following circumstances before your Excellency:—

John Alexander Sampty—who holds a certificate of British nationality, issued by His Majesty's Consulate on the 12th March, 1898—was seized last week and forcibly recruited for the Venezuelan army, notwithstanding his showing his certificate of nationality to an officer named Delfino Olivo.

On his protesting against this outrage, he was threatened with death if he did not march with the other soldiers. He, therefore, to save his life, did so. He was ill-treated on the march, but subsequently released, and on Saturday, the 11th instant, presented himself at His Majesty's Consulate. The Acting Consul accompanied him to lay his complaint before the Minister of War, who stated that the matter must be referred to him through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

I therefore report the circumstances to your Excellency officially, and protest against the recruiting of an English subject as contrary, not only to international law, but to the special terms of the Treaty between England and Colombia of 1825.

I would further remind your Excellency that on various occasions the Venezuelan Government communicated to His Majesty's Legation their protest against foreign subjects engaging in the internal strifes of the Republic. It would, therefore, not be necessary for me to give any other grounds than this for the protest which I hereby make, and, at the same time, for the request not only that this officer—Delfino Olivo—should be punished for acting in a manner at once contrary to law and to the wishes of the Venezuelan Government, but that such measures should be taken as shall render a repetition of such misconduct impossible in the future.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 146.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord,

Caracas, October 29, 1902.

THE Acting Governor of Trinidad forwarded me by last mail a sworn declaration made by the captain of the British sloop "Racer," relating to circumstances which

occurred to his boat on her voyage from Port of Spain to Mayaro, on the east coast of Trinidad, its boarding off the Venezuelan coast by armed men, and the robbery by these of all his belongings and those of his crew, and its subsequent seizure by the Venezuelan authorities at Carupano.

Sir Courtenay Knollys informed me that he had transmitted this statement to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, so I will not trouble your Lordship with a copy of it.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which, on its receipt, I addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Cardas, October 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to bring before your Excellency the following circumstances related in a solemn declaration made by a British subject named James David on the 2nd of this month at Port of Spain before the Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the district, which has been forwarded to me by his Excellency the Acting Governor of Trinidad.

James David declares that he was the master of the British sloop "Racer" trading with Trinidad. On Monday, the 22nd September, he left Port of Spain with his vessel bound for Mayaro, and, when a couple of miles off the Grand Bocas, a squall struck the ship and dismasted it, his brother, who was a sailor on board, being killed by the falling mast. The boat then drifted towards the Venezuelan coast. As it got near to the coast, boats from on shore boarded it with armed men and robbed him and his sailors of all they possessed, including 37*l.* which he had in his trunk, and, when they got to Carupano, the Harbour-master went alongside and asked him what he wanted there. David told him that the sloop was dismasted and had drifted to his port. The Harbour-master then left the sloop and went on board a Venezuelan gun-boat which was then in the harbour; sometime after he returned, telling David that he must not land, and he then went on shore. An hour afterwards he came off again and told David in English: "Come ashore with all your men." The master of the "Racer" did so and was brought with his men to the Custom-house and questioned as to how and why he came to Carupano. Eventually men from the Customs were sent from on shore and they seized the sloop.

This narrative would have appeared incredible had it not unfortunately happened that the circumstances which it relates of violence towards British subjects and property are of a nature with which His Majesty's Legation has been only too familiar of late; but the facts connected with this incident would seem, if not disproved, to be, if possible, even more grave than those of the cases which formed the subject of the note which, by instruction of His Majesty's Government, I addressed to your Excellency on the 30th July.

This British ship drifts into a Venezuelan harbour in a disabled condition. It is usual, on such unfortunate occasions, for the local authorities of a port to give what kindly and hospitable assistance they can to a disabled foreign vessel, but the treatment which is reported as having been accorded at Carupano to the "Racer" is worse than that formerly given by "wreckers" in savage districts to any disabled ship unhappily driven on their shores, for they only used to plunder the crew and ship, whereas at Carupano, according to Captain David, not only has that been done, but the authorities have seized the ship itself.

I can only sincerely hope that your Excellency will be in a position to disprove this declaration. In the meanwhile, Sir Courtenay Knollys informs me that he is seeking further evidence on the question, which will in due course be communicated to me, and that he has forwarded a copy of Mr. David's statement to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

When this further evidence arrives, I shall have the honour of communicating it to your Excellency.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD

No. 147.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1902.

COMMUNICATIONS have recently passed between the Colonial Office and this Department with reference to the alleged removal of arms and ammunition from the "Ban Righ."

In view of the fact that no state of war in the legal sense exists in Venezuela, and that in time of peace the trade in arms and ammunition falls within the range of legitimate commerce, I have to state that there is no ground on which His Majesty's Government could refuse to allow the ammunition to be withdrawn from the bonded store.

By domestic legislation the Venezuelan Government may regulate the importation of arms and ammunition into their own territories in time of peace, and private individuals who break the laws of Venezuela must be prepared to suffer the consequences. If, however, any such legislation exists, it cannot impose upon His Majesty's Government any obligation to limit the trading facilities which all foreigners in Trinidad equally enjoy.

No. 148.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 25, 1902.

ASK Secretary of State whether, if it becomes necessary to withdraw His Majesty's Minister from Carácas, which may happen at any moment, the United States' Minister will be allowed to take charge of British interests.

No. 149.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 25, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 29th ultimo relative to the boarding of the British sloop "Racer," and robbery of the master and crew when that vessel was in distress off the Venezuelan coast, and her subsequent seizure by the Venezuelan authorities at Carupano.

I approve your action in having addressed a remonstrance to the Venezuelan Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 150.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 25, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 28th ultimo relative to the impressment into the Venezuelan army of a British subject, named John Alexander Sampty.

I approve your having addressed a note to the Venezuelan Government, remonstrating against such impressment as a breach of our Treaty rights under Article IX of the Treaty between this country and Colombia of 1825.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 151.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 26.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 25, 1902.

REFERRING to your semi-official communication of to-day's date, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Marquess of Lansdowne that the following telegram has been dispatched to the Commander-in-chief on the North American Station :—

"In concert with German Government, His Majesty's Government have decided to enforce claims by seizure of all Venezuelan gun-boats. Telegraph when you are ready to commence operations. Further instructions with regard to communicating with the German Senior Naval Officer will be sent to you."

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS, *pro Sec.*

No. 152.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 26.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, November 26, 1902.

CHARGE of British interests in Venezuela.

Mr. Hay has informed me that in the event of the withdrawal of His Majesty's Minister at Carácas, he will be pleased to allow the United States' Representative to take charge of British interests in Venezuela, provided that no objection to this arrangement is raised by the Venezuelan Government.

No. 153.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 26, 1902.

THE German Ambassador called upon me on the 21st instant, and stated that he had received further instructions from his Government with regard to the action which they were prepared to take in Venezuela. The following is the substance of the communication which his Excellency made to me :—

The Imperial Government are prepared generally to accept the counter-proposals of His Majesty's Government respecting joint action against Venezuela, but they desire on certain points to offer the following observations :

1. The Imperial Government are willing to intervene jointly in support of the collective German and English claims, without discriminating between the various classes of claims, it being understood that joint action will be maintained unless terminated by mutual agreement.

In consequence, the Imperial Government will at once put forward the following demands :

(a.) Payment of the German claims arising out of the civil wars of the years 1898-1900, amounting to about 1,700,000 bolivars.

(b.) Settlement of claims arising out of the present civil war in Venezuela.

(c.) Guarantee for the claims of German firms on account of the building of the slaughter-house in Carácas, amounting to a round sum of 800,000 bolivars.

(d.) Guarantee for the payment of the claims of the German Great Venezuela Railway Company for interest and sinking fund of the Venezuelan Loan of 1896.

The Imperial Government also concur in the further proposal of His Majesty's Government to demand at once from the Venezuelan Government the acceptance in principle of all the German and English claims, and to reserve the separate settlement of claims for a Mixed Commission to be appointed later. The Imperial Government, however, attach importance to the following point, viz., that the German war claims, under paragraph (a), which have already been thoroughly investigated, and have been presented to the Venezuelan Government for the amounts declared, shall not be subjected to fresh examination at the hands of this Commission.

2. The Imperial Government agree that the measures of coercion against Venezuela

shall be undertaken as soon as possible. It must, however, be taken into consideration that the last notes between the German and Venezuelan Governments were exchanged more than six months ago, and were not couched in a tone which would justify an immediate resort to measures of coercion. The Imperial Government, therefore, consider that they should make one last representation to the Venezuelan Government, and, therefore, propose that Germany and Great Britain should each simultaneously present an ultimatum, in which each Power should embody its own collective demands, referring at the same time to the demands of the other Power. The Imperial Government do not consider that this course would result in a postponement of active measures, as the communications might be presented at once, a period of twenty-four hours being granted for compliance.

3. As regards the coercive measures to be adopted, the Imperial Government are prepared, first, in conjunction with Great Britain, to proceed to the seizure of the Venezuelan ships of war.

No. 154.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 26, 1902.

I HAD a lengthy conversation to-day with the German Ambassador on the subject of the Venezuelan question.

I told his Excellency that, if I correctly understood the views of the German Government, the points as to which we had not arrived at an agreement were few in number, and not of first-rate importance.

They were, I believed, as follows:—

1. We did not like the German proposal to inform the Venezuelans that we shall require an answer to our ultimatum within twenty-four hours. We had no objection to lay down this limit of time for our own guidance, but we thought it might be inconvenient to notify it to the Venezuelans in case by any chance we should, at the last moment, find it impossible to take action at the appointed moment.

2. The German Government had suggested that the Representatives of the two Powers should, after our demands had been refused, leave Carácas, and go either to La Guayra or on board a ship of war. We thought it better that they should be authorized to leave Carácas as soon as the ultimatum had been presented, but it might be left to their discretion to decide when they should leave and where they should go.

3. We observed that the German Government proposed to claim an immediate payment of 1,700,000 bolivars, equal to 66,275*l.*, in satisfaction of their "first rank" claims. Our first rank claims would probably not exceed 10,000*l.*, and we thought it only fair that the cash payment to be made to each Government by the Venezuelan Government should be of the same amount. We should, therefore, ask for the same sum as that demanded by the German Government, as a payment on account towards the satisfaction of the total of our claims, which would reach a very large sum.

Besides these three points, there was the question of the measures of coercion which might be resorted to in the event of the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boats proving ineffectual.

I thought however that, if points 1, 2 and 3 could be satisfactorily disposed of, we might, without waiting for a settlement of this further question, take the steps which were necessary with a view to the presentation of the ultimatum and the preparation of the coercive measures which would be necessary if it was disregarded by the Venezuelan Government.

His Excellency agreed with me as to this, but thought we must be prepared to resort to some further measures of coercion in the event of the seizure of the gun-boats proving insufficient.

In this I concurred, telling his Excellency that His Majesty's Government fully recognized that such ulterior measures might be inevitable, and that we should have to come to an agreement for their adoption in one form or another.

We then had some discussion as to the sequence in which the different steps which would be necessary might be taken by the two Governments, and I promised his Excellency that I would send him a short note describing those steps in chrono-

logical order. I subsequently sent him the Memorandum of which a copy is attached to this despatch.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Memorandum.

THE Senior Naval Officers should be instructed to confer together, and to settle their plan of operations for seizing the gun-boats. They should also be instructed to have a ship or ships in readiness at La Guayra to take on board, if necessary, the British and German Representatives.

2. Mr. Haggard and Baron Pilgrim should be instructed to present the ultimatum. It should be left to their discretion to decide when they should leave Carácas, and whether they should remain at La Guayra or go on board man-of-war there. It might, however, without tying them down to any particular course, be suggested that they should wait twenty-four hours in Carácas after the presentation of the ultimatum. They should announce their departure by notes to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and state that British and German interests were left in charge of ———.

They might then wait another twenty-four hours at La Guayra or on board the vessel.

3. If, at the expiration of the forty-eight hours, no satisfactory answer should have been received, the Representatives should so inform the Senior Naval Officers.

The latter should be instructed, on receiving this intimation from the Representatives, to proceed at once to the seizure of the gun-boats.

Foreign Office, November 26, 1902.

No. 155.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 27, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram dated the 27th November from the Naval Commander-in-chief on the North American Station, relative to the situation in Venezuela, together with a copy of Admiralty reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Commander-in-chief, North American Station, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Bermuda, November 27, 1902.

HIS Majesty's ship "Charybdis" will be ready to leave Bermuda 2nd December. I have placed the "Indefatigable," "Fantome," and "Alert" under the orders of Commodore Montgomerie.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Admiralty to Commander-in-chief, North American Station.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, November 27, 1902.

YOUR proposals are generally approved.

No. 156.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 27, 1902.

PLEASE express to Mr. Hay the best thanks of His Majesty's Government for promise reported in your telegram of yesterday.

His Majesty's Government have not yet quite decided as to the course of action to be adopted; but, with regard to the last sentence of your telegram, they would be grateful if instructions could be sent by telegraph to the United States' Minister at Carácas, authorizing him to take over charge of British interests when His Majesty's Minister makes an application to that effect.

No. 157.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 27, 1902.

WE shall proceed, in conjunction with the Germans, as follows, subject to alterations in matters of detail:—

Instructions will shortly be sent you to present to the Venezuelan Government further communication in the form of an ultimatum. If, within a limited period, which will be indicated, you have not received from them a satisfactory reply, you will quit Carácas, and either proceed to La Guayra or go on board one of His Majesty's ships which will be at that port.

Should no answer be received after another short interval, you will inform the Senior Naval Officer of the fact, and he will have received orders to proceed at once to the seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats upon hearing from you.

No. 158.

Memorandum communicated by M. Cambon, November 28, 1902.

L'AMBASSADEUR de France a fait connaître à son Gouvernement les intentions que lui a manifestées Mercredi dernier, 26 Novembre, Lord Lansdowne relativement aux affaires du Venezuela.

Le Gouvernement Britannique paraît disposé à recourir à une action navale; dans le cas où celle-ci devrait aboutir à une main-mise sur les Douanes Vénézuéliennes, le Gouvernement de la République aurait des réserves à formuler.

En effet, aux termes du Traité Franco-Vénézuélien du 26 Novembre, 1885 (De Clerc, Tome XV, supplément, p. 903), Article 2:—

“La somme de 493,970 fr. 92 c., à laquelle s'adjoindra ultérieurement le montant des indemnités allouées par la Commission Mixte instituée par la présente Convention, sera couverte au moyen de la quote-part proportionnelle attribuée mensuellement à la France dans la répartition du 13 pour cent des quarante unités douanières affectées par le Venezuela aux créances diplomatiques. Cette quote-part mensuelle ne pourra être inférieure au chiffre de . . . , &c.”

En outre, de nouvelles indemnités doivent être payées au Gouvernement Français au moyen de la même dette diplomatique d'après un Arrangement signé à Paris le 19 Février, 1902.

Il résulte de ces Conventions qu'une main-mise sur les ressources de la Douane Vénézuélienne porterait préjudice aux intérêts Français.

L'Ambassadeur de France signale cette situation à l'attention de sa Seigneurie le Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Étrangères.

Ambassade de France à Londres.

(Translation.)

THE French Ambassador has informed his Government of the intentions of Lord Lansdowne in regard to Venezuela, which were communicated to him on Wednesday last, the 26th November.

The British Government appear to be disposed to have recourse to a naval action ; should such action lead to the seizure of the Venezuelan customs, the Government of the Republic would have to make certain reservations.

Thus, in the Franco-Venezuelan Treaty of the 26th November, 1885 (De Clerc, vol. xv, Supplement, p. 903), Article II runs :—

“The sum of 493,970 fr. 92 c., to which will subsequently be added the amount of the indemnities allotted by the Mixed Commission instituted under this Convention, will be met by the proportion accorded monthly to France out of the 13 per cent. of the forty unities of the customs assigned by Venezuela to the Diplomatic debt. This monthly quota shall not be less than . . . &c.”

Besides this, there are fresh indemnities to be paid to the French Government out of this same Diplomatic debt, in accordance with an Arrangement signed at Paris on the 19th February, 1902.

The effect of these Conventions is that a seizure of the resources of the Venezuelan customs would prejudice French interests.

The French Ambassador brings this position to the notice of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

French Embassy, London.

No. 159.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 28, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, inclosing copy of a telegram from the Commander-in-chief North American Station, relative to the operations which it is proposed to undertake in Venezuelan waters, together with a copy of the Admiralty reply.

Lord Lansdowne understands that, as His Majesty's ship “Charybdis” will not be ready to start from Bermuda until the 2nd December, she cannot arrive at Trinidad until the 6th December. As she is commanded by Commodore Montgomerie, to whom the Admiral has intrusted the conduct of operations, no action can be taken until after her arrival.

I am, however, to suggest, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a telegram should be addressed to the Admiral, inquiring where His Majesty's ships “Indefatigable,” “Alert,” and “Fantome” are at present, and instructing him that these three ships should be ready at Trinidad by the time the “Charybdis” arrives.

I am further to state that, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, the Admiral may now be instructed by telegraph to confer with the German Senior Naval Officer as to the plan of operations to be adopted for the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boats.

It would also be necessary that he should arrange for one of His Majesty's ships to be in readiness to proceed, at once if necessary, to La Guayra to take on board His Majesty's Minister. Should their Lordships see no objection, the Commanding Officer of the vessel detached for this duty might offer hospitality to the German Chargé d'Affaires.

Lord Lansdowne considers that it may be useful for the Admiral to know the course of procedure which, subject to alteration in matters of detail, His Majesty's Government, in conjunction with the German Government, propose to take in Venezuela. I am therefore to inform you that His Majesty's Minister at Carácas will shortly be instructed to present a final communication to the Venezuelan Government in the form of an ultimatum. If a satisfactory answer is not received within a limited period, the duration of which will be subsequently indicated, Mr. Haggard will leave Carácas and will have discretion to remain at La Guayra or to proceed on board one of His Majesty's ships. If, after another short interval, no reply is forthcoming, Mr. Haggard will notify this to the Senior British Naval Officer, who will then, if the Lords Commissioners shall have given him the requisite orders, proceed at once to the seizure of the gun-boats.

Should His Majesty's Legation be withdrawn from Carácas, it is probable that British interests in Venezuela will be placed in charge of the United States' Minister.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 160.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 1, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the German Ambassador this afternoon a copy of the instructions which will be sent to-morrow to His Majesty's Minister at Caracas with regard to the presentation of an ultimatum to the Venezuelan Government, and the action which will subsequently be taken if no satisfactory reply is received. I told Count Metternich that Mr. Haggard had already been informed generally of the course which it was intended to adopt, but that I had postponed giving him precise instructions until His Majesty's Government and the German Government had settled every point of detail. Now that a complete agreement has been arrived at, there was no reason for further delay. The Commander-in-chief on the North American Station had been directed to confer with the German Senior Naval Officer, and to concert a plan of operations for the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boats. The British squadron would be assembled at Port of Spain on the 6th instant, and one of His Majesty's ships would arrive on that day at La Guayra, and remain there in readiness to take off His Majesty's Minister.

Of course, if desired, accommodation would also be offered to the German Chargé d'Affaires.

With regard to the question of the ulterior measures to be taken if the seizure of the gun-boats should fail in effect, I hoped to be very shortly in a position to explain the views of His Majesty's Government.

No. 161.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, December 2, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 17th ultimo.

In answer to the Venezuelan note, you should address a written communication to the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs, pointing out that, with regard to the "Ban Righ," His Majesty's Government have given full explanations, and have shown that on this account there is no legitimate ground of complaint. Nor do they consider that there is any justification for attributing blame to the authorities at Trinidad, who only acted in accordance with instructions.

You should then state that His Majesty's Government also regret the situation which has arisen, but that they cannot accept the note as in any degree a sufficient answer to your communications, or as indicating an intention on the part of the Venezuelan Government to meet the claims which His Majesty's Government have put forward, and which must be understood to include all well-founded claims which have arisen in consequence of the late civil war and previous civil wars, and of the maltreatment or false imprisonment of British subjects, and also a settlement of the external debt.

You will request the Venezuelan Government to make a declaration that they recognize in principle the justice of these claims, that they will at once pay compensation in the shipping cases, and in the cases where British subjects have been falsely imprisoned or maltreated, and that as to other claims, they will be prepared to accept the decisions of a Mixed Commission with regard to the amount and the security for payment to be given.

You should express a hope that the Venezuelan Government will comply with these demands, and not compel His Majesty's Government to take steps to obtain satisfaction. You should add that His Majesty's Government have been informed of the claims of the German Government against Venezuela, that the two Governments have agreed to act together in order to obtain a settlement of all their claims, and that His Majesty's Government will require the immediate payment of a sum equal to that which may in the first instance be paid to the German Government. Any balance after the discharge of pressing claims will be held on account for the liquidation of the claims which will go before the Commission.

You should make it quite clear that this communication must be regarded in the light of an ultimatum.

You will confer with your German colleague and act in close conjunction with him. Subject to any modifications which, after conferring with him, you may consider necessary, you should proceed as follows: the presentation of notes must be simultaneous, and should take place on the 7th instant. If no satisfactory answer is received in the course of twenty-four hours, you and your colleague should leave Carácas for La Guayra. On leaving, you should send a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs announcing your departure, and stating that British interests have been placed in charge of the United States' Minister. You should await answer at La Guayra for another twenty-four hours, and if none arrives you should intimate this to the Senior Naval Officer at Port of Spain, who will have received instructions on hearing from you to proceed to active measures. One of His Majesty's ships will be at La Guayra on the 6th instant, and it is left to your discretion whether you go on board at once on arrival there or wait until after the second interval of twenty-four hours has elapsed. If convenient, accommodation on board His Majesty's ship can, of course be offered to the German Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 162.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Rome, December 3, 1902.

THIS afternoon the Minister for Foreign Affairs spoke to me on the subject of Venezuela. He said that he had gathered that a strong representation was about to be made to that Government by His Majesty's Government, and that coercion might have to be resorted to. As the Venezuelan Government had also given Italy just cause for complaint, he had taken steps to inform the United States' Government that Italy might find it necessary to take coercive measures, and had received a very satisfactory reply. Although the Italian Government were not disposed to take the initiative in such action he would, for many reasons, gladly join in any steps taken by His Majesty's Government, if your Lordship were likely to view such a proposal favourably. In reply to his request for my personal opinion on this point, I told him that, speaking personally, such a suggestion might not, I thought, find your Lordship altogether unprepared. I added that as I understood that His Majesty's Government and the German Government were acting in accord, no time should be lost if he contemplated proposing to join in any steps taken by them.

Signor Prinetti then said that he would send instructions to the Italian Ambassador in London. His Excellency added, that an Italian man-of-war was now in Venezuelan waters, and that telegraphic instructions to proceed south immediately could be sent to a second, which was now in North American waters.

No. 163.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord,

Carácas, November 15, 1902.

I DID not forward to the Venezuelan Government, in my note of the 22nd February last, a copy of which I had the honour of transmitting to your Lordship in my despatch of the 22nd of that month, together with the other claims, of which a list was inclosed, that of James Nathan Kelly, which was brought to your Lordship's notice by Mr. Grant Duff in his despatch of the 22nd March, 1901.

My reason for not doing this was that the claim did not come under the Decree of the 24th January, 1901, with reference to the Claims Commission. Mr. Grant Duff, indeed, in his despatch of the 22nd March, mentions that the outrage took place in the month of January, and was the first committed against a British subject which had occurred in connection with the then recent disturbances in the Eastern States of Venezuela—a movement totally different from those connected with the access to power of General Castro, to which that Decree applied.

In reply to Mr. Grant Duff's note of the 12th March, 1901, representing the case to the Venezuelan Government which he forwarded to your Lordship, the Minister for Foreign Affairs sent me a note inclosing a number of statements of soldiers and other apparent partisans of the Government, to the effect that Mr. Kelly was not brought before a court-martial, and though it was acknowledged that his house was pillaged, it was denied that this was to the extent claimed by Mr. Kelly, while this pillage

was justified by the allegation, as declared, that his boat, when captured, had nine sacks of cocoa on board which was intended to be smuggled over to Trinidad, and, moreover, that he had taken part in the previous revolution of General Hernandez.

It would not seem that, even supposing that these accusations had any foundation in fact, they afforded due justification for their plundering of his property, which was at least inferentially put forward.

Kelly forwarded to me, in reply to this last accusation, three affidavits, one of them from the local revolutionary Chief, to the effect that he had never taken any part in any revolution.

It would seem that Kelly's claim might now be presented together with the others, and I should be glad to be favoured with your Lordship's instructions on this point; but I would venture to submit that it is impossible for any one to give an opinion as to the value of the amount of the loss, which, according to his estimate, amounts to 3,640 dollars, an amount which is denied by the Government witnesses, though, as I have before stated, they actually do admit, and attempt to justify, the pillage of the house.

I have the honour to inclose, for the sake of reference, a brief Memorandum which I wrote with the intention of sending to the Venezuelan Government, but ultimately decided to suspend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Memorandum:

IN the month of January 1901, as reported to His Majesty's Legation, Rio Grande was occupied by troops of the Venezuelan Government, where a British subject, James Nathan Kelly, a native of the Island of Trinidad, lived on an estate which he had purchased, on which he cultivated coffee and cocoa on a large scale.

An officer arrested Mr. Kelly, and dragged him before a court-martial. In the meanwhile, his house was broken open and pillaged. Goods to the value of 300 dollars, furniture worth 300 dollars, cocoa worth 1,040 dollars, 1,500 dollars in cash, and a cutter valued at 500 dollars, were taken away by the soldiers. Mr. Kelly's wife took refuge in the woods near Rio Grande, and, making her way to Guiria, eventually reached Port of Spain in great distress.

Since that time, Mr. Kelly's house and land were subjected to further depredations on the part of the Government troops.

Mr. Kelly has never taken part in political affairs in Venezuela, as is proved by three declarations, signed by Pedro Ducharme, Antonio M. Gonzalez G., and Juan Solis respectively, and duly authenticated by the Venezuelan Consulate in Port of Spain.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

British Legation, Caracas, February 20, 1902.

No. 164.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 4.)

(Extract.)

Caracas, November 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the note which, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, I addressed to the Venezuelan Government on the subject of their refusal to discuss the serious causes of complaint represented to them in my note of the 30th July last.

The reply arrived last night, and I have the honour to inclose a translation of it herewith. I sent a précis of it to your Lordship this morning by telegraph, but it was impossible in a telegram to convey the tone of this communication, which is, moreover, perhaps stronger in the original Spanish than in the translation. Putting that aside, it amounts to this: Great Britain has no grievances

against Venezuela. Venezuela has suffered great wrongs at the hands of Great Britain. No less than four times in as many pages are the injuries caused by the "Ban Righ" and by the authorities of Trinidad brought forward. His Majesty's Government are accused of not having carefully considered the complaints as to these wrongs, to which is now added the heinous offence of having allowed five months' accumulated correspondence to be taken by the German cruiser "Panther" to Ciudad Bolivar—a port the blockade of which we had refused to recognise—as also the fact that I have allowed one of their notes to remain unanswered, a course which I followed, because it was of such a nature that I considered it advisable to refer it to your Lordship before doing so. In the same way that the Venezuelan Government consider that the various outrages detailed in my note of the 30th July are trivial and not worthy of consideration while their really unfounded complaints about the "Ban Righ" and the conduct of the authorities of Trinidad are alone worthy of mention, so also it is a grievous offence for me not to have answered one note of theirs while they are acting perfectly correctly in leaving forty-three from this Legation unanswered. According to them, this is not contrary to any "formula of courtesy," but for me not to have replied to one is a very different matter.

I would venture also to call your Lordship's attention to the statement that the Venezuelan Government would be extremely pleased "to receive from His Majesty's Government some indication of their desire for the establishment of a mutual understanding to remedy the injuries caused by the steam-ship 'Ban Righ' and the subsequent conduct of the authorities of Trinidad," whereas "up to the present all that has been evident has been the most unfair refusal to consider the matter."

It is not too much to say, from a perusal of this note, that if the Venezuelan Government are willing to admit the possibility suggested by your Lordship of proceeding with any negotiations, the only basis which they would accept would be that of indemnification by His Majesty's Government for the supposed injuries done to them by the "Ban Righ" and by the equally fictitious active hostility of the authorities of Trinidad.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, November 11, 1902.

I AM instructed by His Majesty's Government to inform that of the Republic of Venezuela that they regret the unsatisfactory character of the reply to the representations contained in my note to your Excellency of the 30th July last. They are unable to admit that the serious causes of complaint put forward can be met by a refusal to discuss them.

If such a refusal is persisted in it will become the duty of His Majesty's Government to consider what steps they should take for the protection of British interests.

They are, however, unwilling to exclude at once all possibility of proceeding with negotiations, and they are therefore ready to consider any further communication which the Government of the Republic may be prepared to make.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Señor Baralt to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, November 14, 1902.

YOUR Excellency's note of the 11th instant might well lead the Government of the Republic to infer, to its great regret, that His Majesty's Government had not, as yet, carefully considered the series of complaints and representations submitted to His Majesty's Legation in respect of the acts perpetrated by the "Ban Righ" since that vessel's departure from British ports and in consequence of the attitude taken up by the authorities of Trinidad since the beginning of the revolution, which was fostered within the territory of the Colony in question, and which has lately caused such grievous ravages in Venezuela:

If His Majesty's Government had examined these charges, of which a complete résumé up to the 5th April last was given in my note of that date, and to which, amongst others, there has just been added that of the dispatch of many bags of correspondence to Ciudad Bolívar, a place in the possession of a rebellion against the lawful Government of the Republic, it would not ascribe the postponement of all other matters to the mere caprice of Venezuela, and it would see, on the contrary, in that action, the logical result of a situation which is certainly very different to any which the Federal Executive could have anticipated in the course of its friendly relations with the Kingdom of Great Britain.

If the facts are viewed impartially and calmly, on the one hand there will be observed the eagerness of His Majesty's Government or of the Legation in Caracas to discuss matters of comparatively secondary importance, many of which might be considered as investigated and settled, and on the other the just, the natural, the necessary interest of Venezuela to see her rights recognized and respected, rights which arise from the grave injuries caused by a ship which left English waters furnished with British papers, and by the undisguised facilities which, for the promotion of their designs, those persons found in the neighbouring Colony, who, within and without that vessel, prepared together all the harm suffered by the Republic from the month of January last up to the present time. Thus, the situation which forms the subject of your Excellency's note cannot be attributed to the Government of Venezuela, nor even to an indirect exercise of their will.

The effects resulting from that situation are in harmony with an order of ideas with which His Majesty's Government will closely sympathise, for they cannot fail to understand and admit that a Government, in defending their rights and performing their duty, must follow the course of action imposed upon them by circumstances which have not been of their own creation, and must adopt such rule of conduct as may be prescribed by necessities over which they had no control. In this respect Venezuela takes no step which can run counter to any formula of courtesy or to any principle of international law. Her conduct is, in all respects, in harmony with the legal aspects of the matter, and for her nothing would be more satisfactory, in view of the close bonds of her friendship for Great Britain, than to receive from the Government of that Kingdom some indication of the desire for the establishment of a mutual understanding to remedy the injuries caused by the steam-ship "Ban Righ" and the subsequent conduct of the authorities of Trinidad. Up to the present all that has been evident has been the most unfair refusal on the part of Great Britain to consider the matter, a refusal aggravated by a fact so recent as that of your Excellency not having even answered the note which was sent to you on the 27th October, on the subject of the illegal dispatch of a large mail from Trinidad to places occupied by insurgents as is Ciudad Bolívar.

The serious incidents which, to the injury of Venezuela, have occurred since last January as the inevitable result of the acts of the "Ban Righ," and owing to the conduct followed by the authorities of the neighbouring Colony, have been gravely considered here. The Government does not ask anything from Great Britain which is not a legitimate consequence of the nature of the affair, and therefore it appeals to the spirit of justice and to the fairness of His Majesty's Government to place the matter on a basis of mutual agreement which is the only way of settling the abnormal situation to which the note of your Excellency refers, and which the Government of the Republic is the first to deeply regret.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) R. LOPEZ BARALT.

No. 165.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Cambon.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, December 5, 1902.

I HAVE given careful consideration to the Memorandum which you were good enough to leave here on the 28th ultimo, calling attention to the Treaty between France and Venezuela of 1885, and the Protocol signed at Paris this year, by which a proportion of the Venezuelan Maritime Customs is assigned to the French creditors.

In reply, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government are fully aware of the nature of the French claims upon a portion of the revenue

derived from the Maritime Customs of Venezuela. In any measures to which His Majesty's Government may resort for the purpose of enforcing their claims against the Venezuelan Government, care will be taken that French interests are not prejudiced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 166.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 5, 1902.

I DISCUSSED with the Italian Ambassador to-day the question of Italian participation in the measures about to be adopted by Great Britain and Germany against Venezuela.

His Excellency told me that he had been instructed to explain to me the reasons that made it of importance that Italy should co-operate with us in any measures to be adopted for the purpose of coercing the Venezuelan Government.

I told M. Pansa that in principle I saw no objection to Italian participation. The difficulty in the way of it was this, that we had for some time past been discussing with the German Government the nature of the measures to be adopted for the purpose of enforcing compliance with our demands. The scope and character of these measures had required the most careful examination, not only on account of the manner in which they affected the two European Powers concerned, but on account of the international questions to which they were calculated to give rise.

We had now arrived at an agreement, and it was proposed to take action immediately. There was really no time available for settling the conditions upon which Italy might join us, supposing that were desired. I ventured to suggest that, in the circumstances, it would be better for the Italian Government not to press their demand for the moment. I would, however, gladly undertake to discuss the matter with the German Government, and I thought it should be possible to find some means by which it would be made clear to all concerned that Italy was with us in what we were doing. All our preparations were now complete, and we were ready to take action at once. I might, indeed, say, without exaggeration, that it was almost an affair of hours. In the short interval of time which remained to us it was, I thought, physically impossible that we should come to an agreement "à trois" as to the part to be played by each of us.

His Excellency told me that he realized the difficulty occasioned by the shortness of the time available. In the circumstances, it was probably impossible for an understanding to be arrived at so as to enable Italy to take part in the initial steps upon which Germany and Great Britain had already determined. He thought it, however, most desirable that there should be an exchange of ideas between the three Powers as to the possibility of giving the Italian Government an opportunity of acting in concert with us for the purpose of protecting their interests. In the meanwhile, he thought an Italian ship or ships might visit Venezuelan waters for the purpose of showing that Italy was not indifferent to what was occurring.

I told his Excellency that it would give me much pleasure to confer with the German Government as to the possibility of affording the Italian Government at a later stage such an opportunity as they desired. I added that it seemed to me perfectly natural that when events such as those which might be anticipated were likely to occur on the Venezuelan sea-board, the Italian Government should desire to be represented by an Italian ship or ships.

No. 167.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 6, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rome has to-day reported by telegraph that the Italian Government are sending the "Bausan"

from Port of Spain to La Guayra for the protection of Italian subjects, and are instructing her Commander in a general way to offer any services he can render to the Senior Officers of the combined British and German squadrons in those waters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 168.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

Caracas, December 7, 1902.

AT 3 o'clock this afternoon both the British and German ultimatums were delivered.

No. 169.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 9.)

(Telegraphic.)

La Guayra, December 8, 1902.

REFERRING to my immediately preceding telegram:

As I had received from the Venezuelan Government no answer to the ultimatum, I handed over charge of British interests to United States' Minister and at 3 P.M. left Caracas for La Guayra, where I embarked on "Retribution." The staff of His Majesty's Legation accompanied me.

No. 170.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 9.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 9, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram dated this day from the Commodore at Trinidad, and I am to state that a telegram has been sent in reply signifying their Lordship's approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Commodore, Trinidad, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Port of Spain, December 9, 1902.

YOUR telegram received. "Indefatigable" arrived. Captain informs me German Commodore has orders, if no satisfactory reply to ultimatum received, to seize Venezuelan Government ships. Captain of "Indefatigable" agreed on the 5th December to act in concert with Germans and start active measures, if ultimatum is rejected, at 3 P.M. the 9th December.

No. 171.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 9, 1902.

THE German Ambassador informed me to-day that the Italian Ambassador at Berlin had presented a demand that Italy should be allowed to participate in the measures contemplated by Germany and Great Britain against Venezuela.

The German Government were prepared to accept this proposal in principle if His Majesty's Government do the same. It was in their opinion obvious that the

participation of the Italian Government in the initial stages of these measures was no longer possible. The German Government were, however, ready to agree that, should a blockade be resorted to, Italy might take part in it. They also considered that the Italian claims might well come before a Mixed Commission, should such a Commission be appointed to deal with the German and British claims.

I replied that the proposals were virtually identical with the suggestions which we had already made in regard to the same subject.

No. 172.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 10.)

(Telegraphic.)

La Guayra, December 9, 1902.

YOUR telegram of the 2nd instant.

I shall, if by 3 o'clock this afternoon I have received no satisfactory reply to the ultimatum, proceed in accordance with the instructions contained in that telegram, and notify to the Senior Naval Officer at Port of Spain by telegraph that I have done so.

It has been arranged between the British Senior Naval Officer and the German Commodore at La Guayra that they will take possession of all the Venezuelan vessels in that port to-day at 5 P.M. There are four of the latter.

The German ships will, after the Venezuelan ships are seized, disperse to the eastward and westward in order to communicate with the other German vessels of their squadron, but within a day or two the German Commodore will return to La Guayra.

No. 173.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 10.)

(Telegraphic.)

La Guayra, December 10, 1902.

THREE Venezuelan ships of war were brought out, and another disabled, by four boats from His Majesty's ship "Retribution," armed with Maxim guns and six boats from the German men-of-war. No resistance was offered.

No. 174.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 10.)

(Telegraphic.)

La Guayra, December 10, 1902.

PRESIDENT CASTRO, according to a report received from Carácas, refuses to allow the United States' Minister to take charge of British and German interests, and has arrested the British Consul and other English and German residents, whom he is said to be keeping as hostages.

The British Vice-Consul, with women and children, were brought on board ship during the night.

The German Commodore, who is still here, has sunk the two vessels he captured.

No. 175.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 11.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 11, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 11th instant, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the North America and West Indies Station relative to the blockade of Venezuela.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Admiralty to Vice Admiral Sir A. Douglas.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, December 11, 1902.

IT has been decided by His Majesty's Government that blockade of Venezuelan ports should be commenced at the earliest possible moment. Direct Commodore to arrange with German Commodore accordingly. No active steps to enforce blockade should be taken till notification has been published. Terms of notification of blockade and instructions to naval officers will follow shortly.

No. 176.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, December 10, 1902.

THE following telegram from the United States' Minister at Carácas has just been communicated to me in confidence by Mr. Hay :—

"Received news at 7 to-night that all British and Germans here were being arrested. I drove at once to the police-station, where I found many Germans. I asked the Chief of Police to release them. He referred me to the Governor, who in turn referred me to President Castro. I told President that I must be authorized to represent Great Britain and Germany at once, or I could not answer for the consequences of his refusal. He consented, and granted my request.

"I then obtained release of German banker, Blohm, and German doctor, Koehler, as personal favour from the President. Then I told President that he ought to release all the Germans and British. He was not willing, and I told him that I should bring up the matter to-morrow. All British subjects are hiding. Excitement in the streets very great."

No. 177.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, December 11, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram from United States' Minister, Carácas, dated 10th December, has just been communicated to me by Secretary of State :—

"German Legation attacked late last night by a mob. I went at once to the Governor, and obtained police protection for German and British Legations, and promise that no further attacks would be made by mobs.

"I visited police-station this morning, and talked with all the prisoners, who number fifty-four in all—forty-four Germans and ten British, some of them so poor I gave them money for food; four are ill, and I expect to get them liberated within an hour. All British and Germans in Venezuela, I understand, have been arrested. This afternoon I shall see President, and urge him to release them all to-day."

No. 178.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, December 11, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram dated to-day from United States' Minister, Carácas, communicated by Secretary of State :—

"President informs me he has released all Germans and British who were arrested."

No. 179.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, December 11, 1902.

MY telegram of yesterday relative to Venezuela.

I am informed by Mr. Hay that United States' Minister in Venezuela is acting with great energy, and that a good many British subjects have been given asylum at the United States' Legation, where they had taken refuge.

No information as to President Castro's intentions has yet been received from Mr. Bowen.

No. 180.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

La Guayra, December 11, 1902.

BRITISH subjects, though arrested, as yet unharmed.

Embargo laid on all British enterprises.

British interests at La Guayra have to-day been placed under protection of United States' Consul here by instructions from American Minister at Carácas.

No. 181.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, December 11, 1902.

PLEASE express at once to Mr. Hay the thanks of His Majesty's Government for the action taken by United States' Minister at Carácas, as reported in your Excellency's telegram of yesterday. We feel convinced that Mr. Bowen will not cease to use all his influence, and will spare no exertion in order that British subjects should be liberated, and their proper treatment ensured.

No. 182.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 11, 1902.

I HAD some further conversation with the German Ambassador to-day as to the steps which should be taken in order to enforce the proposed blockade of the Venezuelan ports.

I said that, judging from the reports which had reached us as to President Castro's attitude, it seemed highly improbable that the seizure of the gun-boats would bring the Republics to reason. That being so, and as our ships were actually in Venezuelan waters, I saw no reason why the blockade should not commence as soon as possible. It seemed to me, however, important that both Powers should commence operations simultaneously, and I suggested that the two Commodores should be instructed to communicate as to this, and to take action as soon as both were ready. To this Count Metternich agreed.

I told his Excellency that we had, in consultation with our legal advisers, carefully considered the manner in which the blockade should be notified, as well as the instructions to be issued for the guidance of our naval officers. We had come to the conclusion that, as the same ports would in no case be blockaded by both Powers, it would be better for each of us to issue our own notifications and our own instructions to our naval officers. This course had more than one advantage. In the first place, it relieved us from the necessity of discussing and criticizing points of detail in the German proposals, and, in the next place, it relieved us from the necessity of offering explanations which might be regarded as applicable to the measures taken by Germany as well as those taken by ourselves.

No. 183.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 12, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 11th instant, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the North American and West Indies Station, respecting the notification of blockade of the Venezuelan coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, December 11, 1902.

YOU are to issue the following notification :—

“It is hereby notified that a blockade of the ports of La Guayra, Carenero, Guanta, Cumana, Carupano, and the mouths of the Orinoco, is declared, and will be effectively maintained from and after the day of December, subject to an allowance of the following days of grace: For vessels sailing before the date of this notification from West Indian ports and from ports on the east coast of the continent of America, ten days for steamers and twenty days for sailing-vessels; from all other ports, twenty days for steamers and forty days for sailing-vessels; for vessels lying in ports now declared to be blockaded, fifteen days. Vessels which attempt to violate the blockade will render themselves liable to all measures authorized by the law of nations and the respective Treaties between His Majesty and the different neutral Powers.

“Given on board His Majesty’s ship .”

So soon after the receipt of this as may be possible you are to telegraph the date fixed for the commencement of the blockade, which has been left blank in the notification. In fixing the date you must be careful to allow sufficient time after the receipt by us of your telegram announcing the date to enable the notification to be issued here, as it is imperative the date in both documents should coincide. You must also bear in mind in any calculation you may make on this head the chance of a Sunday intervening which would effectively interfere with the issue of a Gazette.

The following are instructions for naval officers :—

“His Majesty’s Government having decided to enforce the legitimate claims of Great Britain against the Venezuelan Government by means of a blockade of the following ports on the Venezuelan coast—

La Guayra,
Carenero,
Guanta,
Cumana,
Carupano, and
the mouths of the Orinoco,

desire you will issue the following instructions to the Officers Commanding His Majesty’s ships under your orders which will be engaged in maintaining the blockade :—

“1. Every merchant-vessel sailing under other than the Venezuelan flag, which may be found by one of the blockading ships in the immediate neighbourhood of a blockaded port, is to receive a special notification in accordance with the following procedure :

“2. An officer of the blockading ship is to be sent on board the merchant-vessel. He is to notify to the master of the merchant-vessel the existence and extent of the blockade, and is to inform him that he cannot be permitted to communicate with the blockaded port, and that any attempt to do so in defiance of such warning will

render his vessel liable to seizure and detention for trial in a Prize Court, with probable ultimate confiscation of ship and cargo.

"3. The boarding officer will then enter in the log-book of the merchant-vessel, and on the document which fixes her nationality, the name of His Majesty's ship by whom the notification in his person has been made, together with a statement of the terms of the notification and the date and place at which the visit was made, and to these entries he will affix his signature.

"4. Any such vessel which may appear to have an intention of breaking the blockade is to be ordered to quit the neighbourhood under pain of seizure.

"5. Every merchant-vessel sailing under other than the Venezuelan flag, which in defiance of the above notification attempts to communicate with any of the blockaded ports, is to be seized and thereupon conveyed to Port of Spain, Trinidad, where she is to be handed over to the Prize Court.

"6. Merchant-vessels which, on being boarded--

"(a.) Produce obviously false papers;

"(b.) Refuse or fail to produce the necessary documents to prove their nationality, identity, and destination--

are to be considered as attempting to break the blockade, and are to be ordered to quit the neighbourhood under pain of seizure and ultimate confiscation.

"7. Merchant-vessels sailing under the Venezuelan flag, or merchant-vessels sailing under other than the Venezuelan flag, which may be proved to be in the service of the Venezuelan Government, are to be seized and treated as prize of war.

"8. The exceptions to the above instructions are as follows:—

"(1.) Ships which are *bonâ fide* in distress are to be permitted, as need shall arise, to enter or leave a blockaded port.

"(2.) The blockade does not affect foreigners, that is to say, persons of other than Venezuelan nationality, who wish to leave the country.

"Ships under other than the Venezuelan flag, which have such persons on board, and possess certificates from their Consuls, together with papers in proper form, will, after giving previous notice to the blockading ship, be allowed to pass. But such ships may have no cargo on board beyond the baggage of *bonâ fide* travellers.

"(3.) Every consideration is to be given, compatible with the exigencies of the blockade, to British and German nationals and the subjects of neutral States."

A Prize Court will at once be established at Port of Spain.

No. 184.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, December 12, 1902.

PLEASE inform Mr. Hay that His Majesty's Government cordially appreciate the assistance rendered to British subjects by the United States' Minister at Carácas, as reported in your Excellency's telegrams of yesterday.

Owing to Mr. Bowen's vigorous action they have probably been spared much ill-treatment.

No. 185.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 13.)

My Lord,

American Embassy, London, December 13, 1902.

THE Government of Venezuela has requested the American Minister at Carácas to communicate to the Governments of His Britannic Majesty and of Germany, a proposition to the effect that the present difficulty respecting the manner of settling claims for injuries to British and German subjects during the insurrection be submitted to arbitration; and I have the honour, in accordance with instructions from my Government, to communicate this proposal to your Lordship.

In view of the present condition of affairs in Venezuela, I venture to hope that it

may be possible for you to enable me to inform my Government, at an early date, of the decision arrived at by His Majesty's Government, with regard to the proposal in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY WHITE.

No. 186.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 13, 1902.

I RECEIVED this evening a communication from Count Metternich to the effect that the German Government were specially desirous to remove all points of difference in dealing with the Venezuelan question. There need be no delay in the commencement of operations, and the German Commodore had been instructed to make all the necessary arrangements with Admiral Douglas. The German Government did not press for an identic notification of blockade, but thought the announcement should be simultaneous.

Count Metternich mentioned a proposal that the Italian ships should blockade two ports to the westward of La Guayra. With regard to the exact nature of Italian co-operation, I have told M. Pansa that this seemed to be a matter for settlement between the naval officers on the spot.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 187.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

Port of Spain, December 14, 1902.

A NOTE from the Venezuelan Government, dated the 9th instant, was brought to me the following day, shortly before I left La Guayra, by the United States' Consul, who had received instructions to that effect from the United States' Minister at Carácas. The note purports to be a reply to the ultimatum, but makes no allusion to the definitive character of that document. It is of the usual contentious nature, and complains that no reparation is offered by His Majesty's Government for the acts of the steam-ship "Ban Righ" and the attitude taken up by Trinidad authorities. It ends by asserting that it is impossible for the Venezuelan Government to meet their debts at present, as their Treasury is empty. It will not be necessary, they add, to remind them of their obligations as soon as peace is declared.

A similar note was received at the same time by the German Representative.

No. 188.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

Port of Spain, December 14, 1902.

TELEGRAM received to-day states embargo removed from La Guayra Harbour Corporation.

No. 189.

M. Grénier to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 15.)

*Légation de Belgique, Londres,
le 14 Décembre, 1902.*

M. le Marquis,

LES événements au Venezuela pouvant amener les forces Britanniques à prendre possession des douanes de ce pays, mon Gouvernement juge opportun de faire

connaître au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique que les intérêts Belges, comme ceux de la France, sont garantis par les Douanes Vénézuéliennes.

Je suis chargé en conséquence de faire valoir auprès de votre Seigneurie le droit primordial, sur une partie des revenus de ces douanes, qui appartiendrait à la Belgique, dans cette éventualité.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) ALBÉRIC GRÉNIER.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Belgian Legation, December 14, 1902.

INASMUCH as the events in Venezuela may lead the British forces to take possession of the custom-houses of that country, my Government consider it desirable to inform His Britannic Majesty's Government that Belgian interests, as well as French interests, are guaranteed by the Venezuelan Customs.

I have, therefore, been directed to make known to your Lordship the prior right which Belgium would have, in such an eventuality, to a part of the revenues of those customs.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ALBÉRIC GRÉNIER.

No. 190.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 15, 1902.

THE German Ambassador called on me to-day at my request, and I discussed with him the proposal made to His Majesty's Government by that of Venezuela through the Government of the United States in regard to the possibility of settling by arbitration the claims which had been preferred by the British and German Governments against that of Venezuela for injuries to British and German subjects. I told Count Metternich that the proposal which had, I understood, also been made to the German Government, had not yet been considered by the Cabinet, but that as the American Chargé d'Affaires was to call upon me later in the afternoon, I had thought it desirable that his Excellency and I should at all events have a preliminary conversation on the subject.

Count Metternich told me that he had not yet received any instructions from the German Government. Speaking, however, for himself, he observed that while we should, no doubt, all of us desire to meet such a proposal in a manner agreeable to the United States' Government, there seemed to him to be considerable objections to encouraging the idea of arbitration. He observed, moreover, that the proposal was merely passed on to us, and not in any way supported by the United States' Government. His Excellency further pointed out that it was apparently one which would apply only to claims for injuries sustained "during the insurrection," a limitation which might exclude many of our claims. It was again to be borne in mind that the German claim for injuries sustained between 1898 and 1900 had already been carefully examined by the German Government, and would therefore probably not be considered by them to be "arbitrable." Besides this, both the German and British Governments had already agreed that the bulk of their claims should be examined by a Mixed Commission. This ought to afford a sufficient guarantee that Venezuela would not be unfairly treated.

I promised his Excellency that I would communicate with him further upon the subject as soon as possible.

No. 191.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1902.

THE American Chargé d'Affaires called on me to-day for the purpose of discussing the proposal which the United States' Government had received from the Government of Venezuela, viz., that the present difficulty respecting the manner of

settling claims for injuries to British and German subjects during the insurrection be submitted to arbitration.

I told Mr. White that I had not yet had an opportunity of laying the proposal before my colleagues. It was one which obviously would require very careful examination. I noticed, for instance, that the reference to arbitration appeared to be strictly limited to a certain class of claims, thereby excluding or providing no means of settlement for others which might be of equal or even greater importance.

I also mentioned to Mr. White that I observed that the proposal was merely forwarded to us by the United States' Government, and not in any way recommended for our acceptance.

Mr. White said that this was no doubt the case.

I promised to inform him as soon as possible of the manner in which the matter was regarded by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 192.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 16.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 16, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 16th instant, from the Commodore, His Majesty's ship "Charybdis," relative to the bombardment of Puerto Cabello.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Commodore Montgomerie to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Charybdis," at La Guayra, December 16, 1902.

"CHARYBDIS" and "Vineta" arrived at Puerto Cabello 13th December; found captain and crew of British steamer "Topaze" had been imprisoned and ill-treated. They were afterwards released, but captain compelled to haul down colours. I brought out ship and verbally demanded apology for insult to British flag, and assurance that British and German subjects would not be molested, threatening to shell fort if no answer by given time. Subsequently sent letter to same effect from British and German Commodores. Receiving no answer, "Charybdis" and "Vineta" shelled Forts Libertador and Vigia both clear of town, previously warning Governor to remove garrison and prisoners; resistance practically nil after landing and destroying guns. German Commodore backed me up most loyally. United States' Consul gave much assistance as a go-between. Believe no lives lost. Leaving immediately for Curaçao.

No. 193.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 16, 1902.

THE German Ambassador informed me to-day that he had received instructions from the German Government with regard to the Venezuelan proposal for arbitration. His instructions agreed with the views which he had expressed to me yesterday as those which he himself entertained, and which are recorded in my despatch to you of yesterday's date.

I informed his Excellency that the Venezuelan proposal, as it stood, was unacceptable. Our reasons for holding this opinion corresponded in the main with those which the German Government had advanced. We were, however, inclined to admit that, whilst it was impossible for us to accept arbitration in regard to our claims for compensation in cases where injury had been done to the person and

property of British subjects by the misconduct of the Venezuelan Government, it was not necessary to exclude the idea of arbitration in reference to claims of a different kind. We had already provided for the reference of such claims to a Mixed Commission. It seemed to us, in these circumstances, worthy of consideration whether we might not admit the principle of arbitration in regard to these claims, and perhaps invite the United States to arbitrate upon them.

I told his Excellency that, in my opinion, it would be desirable that, whatever might be decided, we should send separate replies to the Venezuelan proposal, although I thought that we should endeavour to make them as similar as possible in substance.

No. 194.

Memorandum communicated by Count Metternich, December 17, 1902.

A MEMORANDUM communicated to the Reichstag by Count Bülow on the 9th instant contains the following:—

“By the civil wars which have taken place in Venezuela during the years 1898 to 1900, and again since the end of last year, numerous German merchants and land-owners have suffered serious injury; partly through the exaction of forced loans, partly by the appropriation without payment of supplies found in their possession, especially cattle for feeding the troops, and, lastly, by the plundering of their houses and the devastation of their lands. The total of these damages, as regards the civil wars during the years 1898 to 1900, amounts to roughly 1,700,000 bolivares (francs), while for the last civil war damages to the extent of, roughly, 3,000,000 bolivares have already been reported. Some of the injured parties have lost almost the whole of their property, and have thereby inflicted loss on their creditors living in Germany.”

“... Of the few German claims which were laid before the Venezuelan Claims Commission of 1901 several were dismissed at once, while others were reduced in an evidently arbitrary manner. For instance, a German cattle owner, who had had about 3,800 head of cattle seized, representing a value of, roughly, 600,000 bolivares, was awarded a compensation of 14,000 bolivares. Moreover, the Government did not even pay the amounts awarded by the Commission, but informed the complainants that reference would be made to Congress.”

“It may be added that the Germans in the latest civil war have been treated in a particularly inimical manner. The acts of violence, for instance, which were committed by the Government troops when they plundered Barquisimeto, were principally committed at the expense of German houses. This attitude of the Venezuelan authorities would, if not punished, create the impression that Germans in Venezuela were abandoned without protection to the arbitrary will of foreigners, and would be calculated seriously to detract from the prestige of the Empire in Central and South America, and be detrimental to the large German interests which have to be protected in those regions.”

The claim on behalf of the Great Venezuela Railway, which is German enterprise, is now calculated at 7,500,000 bolivares, equals about 300,000*l.*, and is running on.

Count Metternich, in forwarding a copy of the Memorandum, points out that the German claims are not only pecuniary, but also based on the ill-treatment of Germans by the Venezuelan authorities.

No. 195.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1902.

THE American Chargé d’Affaires told me to-day that he had received instructions to inform me that the Venezuelan Government now earnestly wished for arbitration, which, in the opinion of the United States’ Government, seemed to afford a most desirable solution of the questions in dispute.

I told Mr. White that I hoped to be able very early to make him aware of our conclusion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 196.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 18.)

My Lord,

Cardacas, November 27, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Venezuelan Government respecting the claim of James Nathan Kelly, no reply having hitherto been sent to Dr. Blanco's note to me of the 19th June, 1901.

In my note, I point out that the evidence of the Government witnesses, instead of disproving, actually confirms Mr. Kelly's statements as to the pillaging of his property, and requests that the amount claimed, *i.e.*, 3,640 dollars, may be paid to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Cardacas, November 20, 1902.

IN Dr. Blanco's note of the 19th June, 1901, his Excellency was good enough to forward to me some declarations contradicting the statements of James Nathan Kelly, a British subject, as to his not having interfered in politics, and as to his having been brought before a court-martial, though they deny that the damage done was as great as that represented. They, however, allow that his house and property were pillaged, but would seem to justify these acts of violence by the assertion that Mr. Kelly had been taking part in politics; they do not explicitly deny that 1,500 dollars were taken, only asserting that they do not believe that Mr. Kelly had that sum in possession.

I have in my possession three affidavits, duly executed in the Venezuelan Consulate in Trinidad, one of them by Pedro Ducharme, who declares himself to have been the revolutionary Chief of the district of Merino, in the State of Sucre, against the Dictatorship of General Cipriano Castro, and as having been an official in that district under the Governments of Crespo and Andrade, and that the British subject, James Nathan Kelly, had never been involved in the political affairs of Venezuela, as also that he had never rendered him, Ducharme, any service, either directly or indirectly, in the revolutionary cause.

The other two witnesses, in addition to their evidence confirming that of Señor Pedro Ducharme, give details as to Mr. Kelly being a man of substantial property.

These documents are at your Excellency's disposition, should you wish to peruse them.

As it is clear from the evidence furnished by the Venezuelan Government that Mr. Kelly's property was pillaged, and the excuse offered for this act of violence, even if it had any validity in itself, has been shown to have no basis in fact, while no evidence has been offered to prove that Mr. Kelly's statement of losses is otherwise than correct, I confidently trust that your Excellency will take the necessary steps to cause the sum of 3,640 dollars to be paid to Mr. James Nathan Kelly for the damage done to his estate through the action of the Agents of the Venezuelan Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 197.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 18.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 18, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 17th instant, from the Commander-in-chief, North America and West Indies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR

Inclosure in No. 197.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Port of Spain, December 17, 1902.

MY ships are ready now. German Commodore will be ready the 20th instant.

No. 198.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1902.

I INFORMED the United States' Chargé d'Affaires this afternoon that the Cabinet had decided at its last meeting on the 16th to accept in principle the idea of settling the Venezuelan dispute by arbitration, and we had since ascertained that the view of the German Government was in accord with our own. We considered, however, that some of our claims were of such a kind that we could not include them in the reference. I said that I could not give him at that moment a precise description of the excluded claims, but that I should be able to do so shortly. I was authorized to say that it would be extremely agreeable to His Majesty's Government if the President of the United States would consent to act as Arbitrator.

It was satisfactory to me to find that both Governments had come to a conclusion which, judging from the communication which he had made to me last night, was likely to be received with satisfaction by the United States' Government.

I added that we did not propose for the present to desist from the measures of coercion now in progress.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 199.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 18, 1902.

THE German Ambassador informed me to-day that the German Government were in entire agreement with us as to the manner in which the Venezuelan proposal for arbitration should be treated.

They proposed to thank the United States' Government for their good offices in communicating the Venezuelan proposal, and to say that it seemed to offer a sufficient basis for a just settlement of the dispute. They desired, however, to make certain reservations, which his Excellency subsequently embodied in a written Memorandum running as follows :—

1. The claims, which rank first, are not in their present shape suited for settlement by arbitration. These claims, which, as far as Germany is concerned, represent the demands of German subjects in connection with the Venezuelan civil wars of 1898 to 1900, and which are specified in the Memorandum presented to the Reichstag, must therefore be immediately recognized by the Venezuelan Government. In case the latter should be unable to meet these demands immediately, reliable guarantees must at least be given for a speedy payment.

2. All further demands contained in the two ultimatums shall be submitted to the proposed Court of Arbitration. The latter will therefore have to consider not only the claims in connection with the present Venezuelan civil war, but also, as far as Germany is concerned, the demands mentioned in the Memorandum laid before the Reichstag of German subjects arising from the non-fulfilment of liabilities incurred by contract by the Venezuelan Government. The Court of Arbitration will have to decide both on the material justification of the demands and on the ways and means of their settlement and security.

3. We should be thankful if the President of the United States of America would be prepared to accept the office of Arbitrator.

Should, however, the United States' Government not be inclined to hold themselves responsible for the fulfilment of the Award by Venezuela, which, in the present circumstances, and considering President Castro's disposition, it may be rather difficult to guarantee, there will be no other course open but to intrust the Hague Court of Arbitration with the settlement of the matter.

The Government of the United States of America would be conferring an obligation on us if, by exerting their influence over the Venezuelan Government, they could succeed in persuading the latter to accept these proposals.

Count Metternich was instructed to inquire whether an answer on the above lines would meet with our approval. If so, the German Government would at once inform the United States' Ambassador at Berlin. It was, however, to be clearly understood that the consideration of these proposals would not oblige the two Powers to desist from the coercive measures now in progress.

His Excellency added that, since these instructions had been issued, the German Government had received a communication identical with that which had been addressed yesterday evening to His Majesty's Government by the United States' Chargé d'Affaires, intimating the hope of the United States' Government that the two Powers would resort to arbitration.

This communication did not, in the view of the German Government, affect the proposals above described.

I told his Excellency that I would communicate his statement to the Cabinet, which was to meet in the afternoon, and that I had little doubt that, in principle, the two Governments would be found to entertain similar views.

I was able, later in the afternoon, to inform his Excellency that the Cabinet agreed to arbitration as a means of settling the dispute, subject to the following reservations, which he undertook to communicate to the German Government:—

1. The shipping claims are not to be referred to arbitration.
2. In cases where the claim is for injury to, or wrongful seizure of, property, the questions which the Arbitrators will have to decide will only be:—
 - (a.) Whether the injury took place, and whether the seizure was wrongful; and
 - (b.) If so, what amount of compensation is due.

That, in such cases, a liability exists, must be admitted in principle.

3. In the case of claims other than the above, we are ready to accept arbitration without any reserve.

No. 200.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, inclosing copy of a telegram from the Commander-in-chief on the North America and West Indies Station.

Sir A. Douglas reports that the ships under his command are ready to commence operations, and that the German Commodore will be ready on the 20th instant. In these circumstances, I am to request that the Commander-in-chief may be immediately instructed to issue his Notification, and to establish the blockade on the 20th instant.

Arrangements will be made for the issue of a special supplement to the "London Gazette" on the 20th and for the notification of the blockade to foreign Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 201.

*M. Delcassé to M. Cambon.—(Communicated by M. Cambon, December 19.)**Paris, le 18 Décembre, 1902.***AFFAIRES du Venezuela.**

Les Gouvernements des États-Unis, d'Espagne, et de Belgique, ayant décidé de réclamer la clause de la nation la plus favorisée pour le règlement de toutes les demandes d'indemnités de leurs ressortissants, le Gouvernement de la République a cru devoir également assurer toutes garanties aux intérêts de ses nationaux.

Le Représentant Français à Caracas a, en conséquence, été invité à réclamer pour la liquidation de nos réclamations fondées sur des faits postérieurs au 23 Mai, 1899, un mode de règlement et de paiement aussi favorable que celui obtenu par toute autre Puissance.

Quant à nos réclamations pour faits antérieurs au 23 Mai, 1899 (c'est-à-dire, l'élection du Président Castro), leur mode de règlement a été prévu par le Traité de 1885 et le Protocole de 1902; mais comme il y a lieu de veiller à ce que nos avantages sur ce point ne soient pas diminués, le Représentant Français a également reçu pour instruction, au cas où l'une des autres Puissances créancières obtiendrait pour ses réclamations remontant à la même époque un mode de règlement plus avantageux, d'en réclamer aussitôt le bénéfice.

Comme nous tenons en ces circonstances à tenir le Gouvernement Britannique au courant de nos résolutions, je vous prie de lui faire connaître verbalement le sens des instructions envoyées à notre Agent.

(Translation.)

*Paris, December 18, 1902.***AFFAIRS of Venezuela.**

The Governments of the United States, Spain, and Belgium having decided to claim most-favoured-nation treatment for the settlement of all the demands for compensation made by their citizens or subjects, the Government of the Republic have thought it right also to secure every guarantee for the interests of their nationals.

The French Representative at Caracas has, consequently, been requested to claim for the adjustment of our claims founded on events subsequent to the 23rd May, 1899, a method of settlement and payment equally favourable with that obtained by any other Power.

As to our claims in respect of events prior to the 23rd May, 1899 (that is to say, the election of President Castro), the method of settling these claims was provided for by the Treaty of 1885 and the Protocol of 1902; but as it is necessary to see that our privileges, in this regard are not diminished, the French Representative has also been instructed, should one of the other creditor Powers obtain for its claims of the same date a more advantageous method of settlement, to claim the benefit of such method at once.

As we are anxious in these circumstances to keep the British Government informed of our intentions, I request that you will make known to them verbally the sense of the instructions sent to our Agent.

No. 202.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 19, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated 18th instant, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief, North America, respecting the blockade of the Venezuelan coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, December 18, 1902.

YOU are to issue Notification and commence blockade on the 20th instant, informing Germau Commodore so as to secure simultaneous action. Notification will also be issued from here on that day.

Instruct Commanding Officers of blockading ships that mail-steamers are subject to blockade restrictions, and should not be allowed to communicate with blockaded ports. At the same time, the master of each mail-steamer should be informed that if he chooses to transfer his mails to the blockading ship, the latter will, so far as may be practicable, endeavour to land them. This may be done by signalling for a boat to be sent from the shore, but, if necessary, the mails may be sent ashore in a man-of-war boat, under a flag of truce, all due precautions being taken.

No. 203.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord,

American Embassy, London, December 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Bowen, the American Minister to Venezuela, has informed my Government by telegraph that the Venezuelan Government has conferred upon him full powers to enter into negotiations on the part of Venezuela to settle the present difficulties with Great Britain, Germany, and Italy.

I am instructed by Mr. Secretary Hay to communicate the Venezuelan proposition to your Lordship, and to ascertain whether His Majesty's Government be disposed to assent thereto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY WHITE.

No. 204.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1902.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your note of to-day's date, informing me that Mr. Bowen, the American Minister at Carácas, had informed the United States' Government that the Venezuelan Government had conferred upon him full powers to enter into negotiations on the part of Venezuela to settle the present difficulties with Great Britain, Germany, and Italy.

His Majesty's Government have, as you are aware, already accepted the proposal of the Venezuelan Government to refer to arbitration the matters in controversy between the two Governments, and have expressed their hope that the President of the United States will consent to act as Arbitrator. The conditions under which such arbitration might take place have been fully considered, and I hope very shortly to make you aware of them.

In these circumstances, His Majesty's Government prefer not to abandon the proposals which they have already made, proposals which seem to them to afford every hope of a satisfactory settlement, in order to adopt the alternative procedure which the Venezuelan Government have apparently now suggested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 205.

* *The Marquess of Lansdowne to Baron Grenier.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th instant, calling attention to the fact that there are Belgian as well as French claims upon a portion of the revenue derived from the Maritime Customs of Venezuela.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that in any measures to which His Majesty's Government may resort for the purpose of enforcing their claims against the Venezuelan Government, care will be taken that Belgian interests are not prejudiced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 206.

Extract from the "London Gazette" of December 20, 1902.

IT is hereby notified that as the United States of Venezuela have failed to comply with the demands of His Majesty's Government, a blockade by His Majesty's naval forces of the ports of La Guayra, Carenero, Guanta, Cumana, Carupano, and the mouths of the Orinoco is declared, and such blockade will be effectively maintained from and after the 20th day of December, subject to an allowance of the following days of grace: For vessels sailing before the date of this notification from West Indian ports, and from ports on the east coast of the continent of America, ten days for steamers and twenty days for sailing-vessels; from all other ports, twenty days for steamers and forty days for sailing-vessels; for vessels lying in ports now declared to be blockaded, fifteen days. Vessels which attempt to violate the blockade will render themselves liable to all measures authorized by the law of nations and the respective Treaties between His Majesty and the different neutral Powers.

Foreign Office, December 20, 1902.

No. 207.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1902.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy, received from Count Metternich, of the reply which the German Government will return to the proposals made by Venezuela through the United States' Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure in No. 207.

German Government to United States' Embassy at Berlin.

(Translation.)

THE Imperial Government wish to express to that of the United States their best thanks for the efforts of the latter to settle in a satisfactory manner the undesired controversy with Venezuela. The proposal made by the United States that an Arbitrator should be appointed seems both to Germany and England to be a satisfactory basis for arriving at a fair settlement of their claims. But the two Powers consider it necessary to make certain reservations:—

1. Among their claims are some which in their present stage are not suited for submission to arbitration. Claims of this nature, so far as Germany is concerned, are those which originated in the Venezuelan civil wars from 1898 to 1900, and of which details are given in the inclosed Memorandum of the 8th December, which was communicated to the Reichstag. It will be seen that they consist of claims on account of acts of violence on the part of the Venezuelan

Government or their agents, and that after years of procrastination, and in spite of the repeated representations made by the Imperial Government, satisfactory compensation has been refused in a well-nigh insulting manner. This class of claims, which after careful examination by the Imperial Government amount to a total of 1,700,000 bolivares (325,000 dollars), will therefore have to be admitted by the Venezuelan Government without delay; and the latter must, if they are unable to pay at once, give at least a safe guarantee for prompt payment.

2. All other claims which have been put forward in the two ultimata could be submitted to the Arbitrator, and the latter will therefore have to deal not only with the claims arising out of the present civil war in Venezuela, but also, so far as Germany is concerned, with the claims of German subjects in connection with the non-fulfilment of the engagements alluded to in the above-mentioned Memorandum, which the Venezuelan Government have undertaken under contracts made with those Germans.

3. The Arbitrator will have to decide both about the intrinsic justification of each separate claim and about the manner in which they are to be satisfied and guaranteed. In the case of claims in connection with damage done to, or unjustifiable seizure of, property, the Venezuelan Government will have to recognize their liability in principle, so that the question of liability will not form the subject of arbitration, but the Arbitrator will be concerned solely in the questions of the illegality of the damage or seizure, and also of the amount of compensation to be awarded.

The Government of the United States of America would be conferring an obligation on the Imperial and British Governments if, by exerting their influence over the Venezuelan Government, they could succeed in persuading the latter to accept these proposals. The two Governments would also be grateful if the President of the United States were disposed to undertake the office of Arbitrator under the above conditions.

Should the President of the United States not be inclined to do so, which would be to the regret of the two Governments, they are also prepared to submit the matter to the Arbitration Tribunal at the Hague.

No. 208.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1902.

THE United States' Chargé d'Affaires called at this Office on the 20th instant, and informed me that, while the President would not decline any service desired by the Powers interested for the settlement of pending claims against Venezuela, he desired to intimate that he would regard it as altogether desirable that the matter should be referred to the Hague Court of Arbitration.

Mr. White told me yesterday that the President had informed the Venezuelan Government of the invitation which would probably be extended to him, and had inquired whether it was also their wish that he should act as Arbitrator. In the meantime, the President desired to know more precisely the reservations of the subject-matter of arbitration contemplated by the Powers.

Mr. White called here again to-day and recurred to the subject, asking me whether our knowledge of the manner in which the President regarded the proposal was likely to modify our attitude with reference to it.

I told Mr. White that I felt sure that His Majesty's Government would not desire to withdraw from the proposal which they had made, and that they would greatly regret the President's inability to give us the benefit of his assistance. The chorus of approbation with which the idea of arbitration by the President had been received by all concerned strengthened me in my belief that it would be a matter for much regret should the President deem it impossible for him to undertake the task.

Mr. White asked whether, should the President decide upon refusing, we were prepared to refer the question to the Hague Tribunal.

I replied in the affirmative.

I promised Mr. White to give him as soon as possible the information which the President desired with regard to our reservations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Memorandum communicated to Mr. White, December 23, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Government have in consultation with the German Government taken into their careful consideration the proposal communicated by the United States' Government at the instance of that of Venezuela.

The proposal is as follows :—

That the present difficulty respecting the manner of settling claims for injuries to British and German subjects during the insurrection be submitted to arbitration.

The scope and intention of this proposal would obviously require further explanation. Its effect would apparently be to refer to arbitration only such claims as had reference to injuries resulting from the recent insurrection. This formula would evidently include a part only of the claims put forward by the two Governments, and we are left in doubt as to the manner in which the remaining claims are to be dealt with.

Apart, however, from this, some of the claims are of a kind which no Government could agree to refer to arbitration: The claims for injuries to the person and property of British subjects owing to the confiscation of British vessels, the plundering of their contents, and the maltreatment of their crews, as well as some claims for the ill-usage and false imprisonment of British subjects, are of this description. The amount of these claims is comparatively insignificant, but the principle at stake is of the first importance, and His Majesty's Government could not admit that there was any doubt as to the liability of the Venezuelan Government in respect of them.

His Majesty's Government desire, moreover, to draw attention to the circumstances under which arbitration is now proposed to them.

The Venezuelan Government have during the last six months had ample opportunities for submitting such a proposal. On the 29th July and again on the 11th November, it was intimated to them in the clearest language that unless His Majesty's Government received satisfactory assurances from them, and unless some steps were taken to compensate the parties injured by their conduct, it would become necessary for His Majesty's Government to enforce their just demands. No attention was paid to these solemn warnings, and, in consequence of the manner in which they were disregarded, His Majesty's Government found themselves reluctantly compelled to have recourse to the measures of coercion which are now in progress.

His Majesty's Government have, moreover, already agreed that in the event of the Venezuelan Government making a Declaration that they will recognize the principle of the justice of the British claims, and that they will at once pay compensation in the shipping cases, and in the cases where British subjects have been falsely imprisoned or maltreated, His Majesty's Government will be ready, so far as the remaining claims are concerned, to accept the decision of a Mixed Commission, which will determine the amount to be paid and the security to be given for payment. A corresponding intimation has been made by the German Government.

This mode of procedure seemed to both Governments to provide a reasonable and adequate mode of disposing of their claims. They have, however, no objection to substitute for the Special Commission a reference to arbitration, with certain essential reservations. These reservations are, so far as the British claims are concerned, as follows :—

1. The claims (small, as has already been pointed out, in pecuniary amount) arising out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and outrages on their crews, and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects, are not to be referred to arbitration.

2. In cases where the claim is for injury to or wrongful seizure of property, the questions which the Arbitrators will have to decide will only be (a), whether the injury took place, and whether the seizure was wrongful, and (b), if so, what amount of compensation is due. That in such cases a liability exists must be admitted in principle.

3. In the case of claims other than the above, we are ready to accept arbitration without any reserve.

It would, in the opinion of both Governments, be necessary that the Arbitral Tribunal should not only determine the amount of compensation payable by Venezuela, but should also define the security to be given by the Venezuelan Government, and the means to be resorted to for the purpose of guaranteeing a sufficient and punctual discharge of the obligation.

Should the President of the United States be willing to undertake the task of Arbitrator, the British and German Governments would avail themselves of his good offices with the highest satisfaction.

If it should unfortunately prove impossible for the President to render this important service to the two Governments, they are prepared to refer the questions at issue to arbitration by the Hague Tribunal.

No. 210.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 23, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the United States' Chargé d'Affaires to-day a Memorandum, of which I inclose a copy,* in reply to the proposal made by the Venezuelan Government, and communicated by the United States' Government on the 13th instant.

I repeated to Mr. White that it would be a matter of sincere regret to His Majesty's Government if the President should feel unable to undertake the duty of Arbitrator.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 211.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 26, 1902.

THE First Secretary of the Italian Embassy called here this afternoon and was informed, in reply to inquiries, that His Majesty's Government had not made any formal declaration of war against Venezuela. He was further told that a British Prize Court had been established at Port of Spain.

M. Carignani stated that, in answer to the proposals for arbitration, his Government had expressed their readiness to submit the matters in dispute between Italy and Venezuela. The Italian Government hoped that the President of the United States would consent to act as Arbitrator, but if this were refused they were ready to accept a reference to the Hague Tribunal.

So far as Italy was concerned, two reserves were made: (1) That all Italian claims should be submitted, so that there should be no question of dispute left outstanding between the two countries; (2) That Italian claims should receive equal treatment with those put forward by Great Britain and Germany; and that they should have equal security for payment assigned to them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 212.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 27.)

My Lord,

American Embassy, London, December 27, 1902.

WITH reference to recent interviews with your Lordship relative to the submission to arbitration of the questions at issue between Great Britain and Venezuela, and particularly to the Memorandum which you were so good as to hand me on the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that the President of the United States profoundly appreciates the courtesy with which the Powers in interest have suggested his name as Arbitrator in the matters now pending in Venezuela; and if no other—or no better—means of settling the subjects in dispute presented themselves, he would willingly comply with the wishes of the Powers and give his best efforts to an end so laudable. But the President has thought it most desirable from the beginning that the entire controversy should be submitted to the judgment of that high Tribunal at the Hague, which has been created by the principal Powers of the world for the

* No. 209.

consideration of precisely such causes, involving, as the present controversy does, no question of national honour nor the cession of territory.

After a thorough consultation with all of the Powers concerned, during which the President has found an honourable spirit of candour and of mutual consideration animating every one of them, he has been greatly gratified to learn that, in the event of his not undertaking the important duty to which the Powers have invited him, they would all be willing to accept a reference to the Hague.

The President has therefore the greatest pleasure in announcing to the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and Venezuela that all of them have accepted in principle the proposition of a reference of pending questions to the Tribunal of the Hague.

If the President can be of any further service in arranging the preliminaries of such an understanding, he will gladly hold himself at the disposition of the Powers concerned; and if their Representatives should find it desirable to meet in Washington, he would be happy to welcome them there and to facilitate their labours in every possible way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY WHITE.

No. 213.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 27, 1902.*
THE United States' Chargé d'Affaires handed to me to-day the accompanying note,* embodying the instructions which he had received from the United States' Government in regard to the Venezuelan question.

Mr. White informed me that he was also instructed to inquire whether, as the Venezuelan Government had accepted the principle of arbitration by the Hague Tribunal, the President was at liberty to communicate to that Government the conditions embodied in my Memorandum of the 23rd instant.

I told Mr. White that there could be no objection to the communication proposed by the President. I expressed the regret with which I had learnt that the President had found himself unable to undertake the office of Arbitrator, and I took note of his considerate offer to hold himself at the disposition of the Powers concerned, in the event of his assistance being required in arranging the preliminaries of a reference to arbitration. I added, however, that it seemed to me that, for the moment, there was nothing more to be done until we knew whether our terms were acceptable to the Venezuelan Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 214.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 30, 1902.*
COUNT METTERNICH communicated to me this afternoon the reply received by the German Government from the United States' Ambassador at Berlin to their request that the President would undertake the office of Arbitrator in the Venezuelan difficulty.

This reply is in terms similar to those employed in the note addressed to me by Mr. White on the 27th instant.

Count Metternich, in communicating this answer, stated that, in the opinion of the German Government, it was essential that Venezuela should agree to the conditions formulated by the two Powers before they could submit the matter to arbitration at the Hague.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 215.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 1.)

My Lord,

American Embassy, London, January 1, 1903.

I HAVE the honour, in accordance with instructions from my Government, to communicate to your Lordship the following copy of a telegram, which was received yesterday by Mr. Secretary Hay from Mr. Bowen, American Minister to Venezuela:—

“I have received the following answer from the President of Venezuela:

“I recognize, in principle, the claims which the allied Powers have presented to Venezuela. They would already have been settled if it had not been that the civil war required all the attention and all the resources of the Government. To-day the Government bows to superior force, and desires to send Mr. Bowen to Washington at once, to confer there with the Representatives of the Powers that have claims against Venezuela, in order to arrange either an immediate settlement of all the claims, or the preliminaries for a reference to the Tribunal of The Hague, or to an American Republic, to be selected by the allied Powers and by the Government of Venezuela. Mr. Bowen would be duly authorized to settle the whole question as the Representative of Venezuela.

(Signed) “CIPRIANO CASTRO.”

Copies of the foregoing telegram from Mr. Bowen have also been transmitted by the Secretary of State to the American Ambassadors at Berlin and Rome.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY WHITE.

No. 216.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 1, 1903.

THE United States' Chargé d'Affaires handed to me to-day the inclosed note* containing the reply of the Venezuelan Government to the communication embodied in the Memorandum handed to me by Mr. White on the 23rd December in regard to the settlement of the Venezuelan dispute.

Mr. White informed me that the alternative suggestion made by the President of the Venezuelan Republic, to the effect that an American Power might be chosen to arbitrate, was not supported by the United States' Government.

Mr. White was further instructed to say that the designation of Mr. Bowen to act as Representative of Venezuela was not due to the suggestion or wish of the United States' Government. If the Powers declined to accept him the United States would so inform Venezuela, and would not authorize Mr. Bowen to serve.

Mr. Bowen's selection was, the United States' Government thought, apparent made “in the interest of prompt and favourable action.”

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 217.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 2, 1903.)

My Lord,

Trinidad, December 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the note which I presented to the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 7th instant, in accordance with your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd instant, as the ultimatum of His Majesty's Government. The note of the German Chargé d'Affaires was presented at the same time. I also inclose copies of the notes which I addressed to Señor Baralt and to the United States' Minister on the 8th instant, informing them of my intended

* No. 215.

departure from Carácas. On the 9th instant I received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs the reply of the Venezuelan Government to the ultimatum. I have the honour to transmit a translation herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 217.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Carácas, December 7, 1902.

IN reply to your Excellency's note of the 14th instant ~~instant~~ *ultimo*, I have the honour to inform you that I have been instructed by His Majesty's Government to point out to the Venezuelan Government in writing that, with regard to the steam-ship "Ban Righ," His Majesty's Government have given full explanations, and have shown that on this account there is no legitimate ground of complaint. Nor do His Majesty's Government consider that there is any justification for attributing blame to the authorities at Trinidad, who only acted in accordance with instructions.

I have the honour to state, further, that His Majesty's Government also regret the situation which has arisen, but that they cannot accept your Excellency's note as in any degree a sufficient answer to my communications or as indicating an intention on the part of the Venezuelan Government to meet the claims which His Majesty's Government have put forward and which must be understood to include all well-founded claims which have arisen in consequence of the late civil war and previous civil wars, and of the maltreatment or false imprisonment of British subjects, and also a settlement of the External Debt.

I am to request the Venezuelan Government to make a declaration that they recognize in principle the justice of these claims, that they will at once pay compensation in the shipping cases, and in the above-mentioned cases and in those where British subjects have been falsely imprisoned or maltreated, and that in respect of other claims they will be prepared to accept the decisions of a Mixed Commission with regard to the amount, and the security for payment to be given.

I am further to express the hope that the Venezuelan Government will comply with these demands, and not compel His Majesty's Government to take steps to obtain satisfaction.

I am to add that His Majesty's Government have been informed of the claims of the German Government against Venezuela, that the two Governments have agreed to act together in order to obtain a settlement of all their claims, and that His Majesty's Government will require the immediate payment of a sum equal to that which may, in the first instance, be paid to the German Government. Any balance after the discharge of pressing claims will be held on account for the liquidation of the claims which will go before the Commission.

I am further instructed by His Majesty's Government to make it clear that this communication must be regarded in the light of an ultimatum.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 217.

Mr. Haggard to Mr. Bowen.

Sir,

Carácas, December 8, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Government have informed me that your Excellency was directed by the United States' Government to undertake the charge of British interests in Venezuela in the event of that necessity arising.

I have, therefore, the honour to inform your Excellency that I am leaving Carácas temporarily, and to request you to be good enough to take charge of British interests during my absence.

The Venezuelan Government have been informed that British interests have been placed under your Excellency's charge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 217.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, December 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I am leaving Caracas for La Guayra, where I shall, for the present, take up my residence on board His Majesty's ship "Retribution."

British interests have been placed in the charge of the United States' Minister during my absence.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 217.

Señor Baralt to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Caracas, December 9, 1902.

ON Sunday, the 7th instant, a person with whom I have not the honour of being officially acquainted, asked for me in my private house in order to deliver to me in your Excellency's name, the note of the same date with reference to the claims of British subjects arising from the last civil war and from former ones. A feeling of exaggerated courtesy on my part induced me to receive the note on that day and under those circumstances.

As this Ministry has been carrying on a lengthy correspondence with His Majesty's Legation on the subject of the complaints which Venezuela had presented as the occasion arose to the Government of Great Britain with reference to the injuries caused by the "Ban Righ," and to the partial conduct of the authorities of Trinidad in respect to the revolution which has just been devastating the Republic, your Excellency begins by referring to one of my notes which you quote as being of the 14th instant, and which was doubtless that of the 14th ultimo. With reference to this note your Excellency states that the Government of His Majesty could not admit that there is any foundation for the demands of Venezuela, since the acts of the "Ban Righ," as you add, had been fully explained, and the authorities of Trinidad had, moreover, not acted otherwise than in accordance with their instructions. Your Excellency then enters into the question of the British claims and asks, in the name of your Government, that Venezuela should declare that they are just in principle; and you finally allude to the necessity of paying them, and to the common action which the United Kingdom and the German Empire have agreed to exercise in order to compel the Republic to do so.

The Government have considered this note with the attention which it deserves without having found in the narration of the facts which it contains, anything to justify the present attitude or any sufficient reason for the omission of reciprocal understanding with a view to avoiding or preventing difficulties. The Government of the Republic will begin by reminding you that the essential object of the note of the 14th November, which is that to which your Excellency doubtless refers, was to insure an immediate agreement with Great Britain with reference to the pending questions; hence the surprise with which it has seen apparently eluded or unnoticed, the cordial and friendly sentiments which had been so recently expressed. With reference to the "Ban Righ," no action has been taken to alleviate the tremendous injuries which it caused to the Republic, and with reference to the conduct observed by the authorities of Trinidad, far from offering compensation, it appears that they obeyed definite instructions from the English Government. This circumstance does not require any further comment, since it is enough in itself to give the fullest justification to all the demands which Venezuela has made in the correspondence with the Legation up to the 14th November, 1902.

With reference, furthermore, to the essential part of your Excellency's note, or its real object, which can only be, as must be deduced from its text, to secure the interests of British subjects, every facility is furnished for the fulfilment of this object without the Government going beyond, as it cannot go beyond, their administrative functions in order to harmonize the condition of affairs with the desire expressed in the name of Great Britain. There is no reason why the Federal Government should not recognize the justice of obligations which are provided for in the National laws, and on this point you

may be perfectly sure that the interests in question will be always protected and duly attended to.

With reference to the claims, your Excellency would seem to refer definitely to those which you enumerated in a note of the 20th February, 1902, amounting, in your opinion, to 36,401 bolivares. The Examining Commission created with the agreement of the National Legislative Body will take them into consideration and will settle them in accordance with justice. The remaining cases which are not answered in the correspondence, depend, as far as they can be considered as constituting claims, on facts which have to be proved or defined, and which the competent authorities will attend to or are attending to. And since your Excellency speaks of well-founded claims, it does not appear possible that such cases, in their actual condition or legal position, can have the same character as those which are explained in documents which testify to their character, and which give an opportunity of enlightening the judgment or guiding the decision of the body who will consider them. The Government—however much they may consider and investigate it—can find nothing else included in the present request or demand of Great Britain, since the so-called External Debt, which is cited incidentally in the note, ought not to be, and never has been, a subject for action outside the National Law of public credit in which it takes its place with all its guarantees and all the effects which it enjoys by regulation.

The war which has been ruining Venezuela for a year has left the Public Treasury little less than exhausted and prevented the Administration from attending, for the moment, to serious calls of National credit. So long as the work of pacification—near to its end though it be—is not completed, the difficulty exists. When once peace is declared, as it shortly will be, it will not be necessary to remind the Government of the Republic of the fulfilment of its fiscal duties, since it well knows its duty in this respect without the necessity of pressure or of spur, contrary, as your Excellency will understand, to the laws of mutual respect and of true cordiality.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) R. LOPEZ BARALT.

No. 218.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 2, 1903.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegrams of the 11th and 12th December, instructing me to express to the United States' Government the thanks of His Majesty's Government for the action of the United States' Minister at Carácas in protecting British interests in Venezuela, and expressing the conviction that he would continue to exert his influence in the same direction.

On receipt of each telegram I immediately addressed a note to the Secretary of State of the United States in the sense indicated by your Lordship, and I have now been informed by Mr. Hay that a copy of each of my communications has been forwarded to Mr. Bowen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 219.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

(Extract.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 2, 1903.

THE German Ambassador called on me this afternoon for the purpose of discussing the answer received from the President of the Venezuelan Republic by the United States' Government, and by them transmitted to the British and German Governments, with regard to the mode of settling the Venezuelan dispute.

Count Metternich observed that in the Venezuelan reply it was not stated with sufficient distinctness whether the conditions proposed by the two Powers were unreservedly accepted; he said that in the view of the German Government it would be necessary to obtain in the first instance from the Venezuelan Government a positive declaration of their acceptance of the conditions upon which the German

and British Governments had insisted, and that they should be required to explain the manner in which they intended to guarantee the fulfilment of any obligations which they might contract in connection with the Arbitrator's Award.

It seemed to the German Government that if satisfactory assurances were given in this respect, the Powers concerned would then be in a position "to enter into a discussion with regard to the manner in which the question should be further dealt with."

I said that I held strongly—and in this I agreed with the view of the German Government, which his Excellency had been good enough to communicate to me—that we ought on no account to allow our Representatives at Washington or elsewhere to enter into any discussions with Mr. Bowen until we had obtained from the Venezuelan Government a distinct statement that they unreservedly accepted and agreed to be bound by the conditions numbered 1, 2, and 3 in the Memorandum which I communicated to Mr. White on the 23rd December, 1902, and also by the further condition described in the paragraph which follows. An extract of the Memorandum, showing the passages referred to, is inclosed for convenience of reference.

If these conditions were unreservedly accepted, I thought we might authorize our Representative at Washington to meet Mr. Bowen, and to consider any proposals which he might have to make either for (a) "an immediate settlement of all the claims," or (b) the preliminaries for a reference to the Hague Tribunal.

It should, I thought, be made clear that our readiness to discuss (a) should in no way prejudice our right to demand a reference to the Hague.

It would in this case, I thought, have to be clearly understood that Mr. Bowen appeared merely as a Commissioner on the part of the Venezuelan Government, and not in his official capacity as United States' Minister at Carácas.

I added that it would, in my opinion, be unwise to exclude any arrangement which might possibly afford the prospect of a more expeditious settlement than any which could be expected from the Hague Tribunal.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Extract from Memorandum communicated to Mr. White, December 23, 1902.

1. THE claims (small, as has already been pointed out, in pecuniary amount) arising out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and outrages on their crews, and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects, are not to be referred to arbitration.

2. In cases where the claim is for injury to or wrongful seizure of property, the questions which the Arbitrators will have to decide will only be (a), whether the injury took place, and whether the seizure was wrongful, and (b), if so, what amount of compensation is due. That in such cases a liability exists must be admitted in principle.

3. In the case of claims other than the above, we are ready to accept arbitration without any reserve.

It would, in the opinion of both Governments, be necessary that the Arbitral Tribunal should not only determine the amount of compensation payable by Venezuela, but should also define the security to be given by the Venezuelan Government, and the means to be resorted to for the purpose of guaranteeing a sufficient and punctual discharge of the obligation.

No. 220.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 2, 1903.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this evening, and had some conversation on the subject of the Venezuelan dispute. I repeated to him in substance the observations which I had just made to the German Ambassador, and which were fully recorded in my despatch of to-day addressed to Sir F. Lascelles.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 221.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 3, 1903.

THE German Ambassador handed to me this afternoon the inclosed copy of the reply which his Government will make to President Castro's communication.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

 Inclosure in No. 221.
Draft of Letter to the American Ambassador at Berlin.

(Translation.)

THE German Government has learnt with satisfaction that the Venezuelan Government accepts in principle the German demands. Before entering into further negotiations with Venezuela on this basis, it appears necessary that President Castro should give a definite declaration that he accepts, unconditionally, the reservations contained in the German Memorandum of the 22nd December, 1902, besides which he must specially make clear in what manner he intends to pay the demands contained in that Memorandum or to give security for the amount.

When the Venezuelan Government has given a satisfactory declaration, the Imperial Government would be ready to instruct their Ambassador at Washington to begin negotiations with Mr. Bowen, and to consider his proposals for the settlement of the matter. These proposals would, apart from the demands specified under (1) of the Memorandum, cover either an immediate regulation of all the claims or their reference to the Hague Tribunal. The German Government assumes that, if any proposals for immediate settlement are discussed, their rights as to referring the matter to the Hague Tribunal will in no way be prejudiced thereby.

The Imperial Government would be very grateful to the Government of the United States if the latter would transmit this reply to President Castro.

 No. 222.
The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, in reply to your communication of the 1st instant, that His Majesty's Government have taken into consideration the answer received by Mr. Secretary Hay from the President of the Venezuelan Republic to the proposals contained in the Memorandum which, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, I handed to you on the 23rd December, 1902.

His Majesty's Government observe with satisfaction President Castro's statement that he recognizes "in principle" the claims which they have put forward. His Majesty's Government understand this statement to signify that President Castro agrees, on the part of the Venezuelan Government, that any discussions in which Mr. Bowen, as the Representative of that Government, is to engage at Washington with the Representative of His Majesty's Government are to proceed upon the assumption that the Venezuelan Government unreservedly accept, and agree to be bound by the conditions laid down in the Memorandum of the 23rd December, 1902, which run as follows:—

"1. The claims (small, as has already been pointed out, in pecuniary amount) arising out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and outrages on their crews, and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects, are not to be referred to arbitration.

"2. In cases where the claim is for injury to, or wrongful seizure of, property, the questions which the Arbitrators will have to decide will only be: (a) whether the injury took place, and whether the seizure was wrongful; and (b) if so, what amount of compensation is due. That in such cases a liability exists must be admitted in principle.

"3. In the case of claims other than the above, we are ready to accept arbitration without any reserve.

"It would, in the opinion of both Governments" (British and German), "be necessary that the Arbitral Tribunal should not only determine the amount of compensation payable by Venezuela, but should also define the security to be given by the Venezuelan Government, and the means to be resorted to for the purpose of guaranteeing a sufficient and punctual discharge of the obligation."

On receiving a definite assurance from President Castro that this interpretation of his language is accepted by him as correct, and that whatever procedure be adopted adequate provision will be made for the prompt satisfaction of the claims specified in paragraph (1), His Majesty's Government will be prepared to authorize His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to confer on this basis with Mr. Bowen, as the Representative of the Venezuelan Government, and will furnish Sir M. Herbert with the necessary instructions for examining the possibility of an immediate settlement, or, failing such a settlement, for arranging a reference of all points left open for arbitration to the Tribunal at the Hague.

His Majesty's Government will be much obliged if Mr. Secretary Hay will be good enough to take such steps as may be necessary to communicate the substance of this Memorandum to President Castro, and will request an answer at the President's earliest convenience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 223.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1903.

I HANDED to the German Ambassador to-day a copy of the reply of His Majesty's Government to the proposals of the Venezuelan Government received on the 1st instant through the Government of the United States.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 224.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1903.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day, and informed me that he was instructed by the Italian Government to say that they entirely concurred in the views which I had expressed to M. Pansa on the 2nd instant as to the reply which should be given to the proposals of the Venezuelan Government received on the 1st of January, through the Government of the United States.

The Italian Government saw no objection to the employment of Mr. Bowen, on the understanding that he was to act not as an Arbitrator, but as the Agent of the Venezuelan Republic, and that, in the event of his being unsuccessful in arriving at an immediate settlement with the Representatives of the Powers concerned, they should be free to have recourse to the Arbitration Tribunal at the Hague.

I subsequently sent to Signor Carignani a copy of my note to the United States' Chargé d'Affaires.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 225.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir R. Rodd.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 7, 1903.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires informed me to-day that the Italian Government had returned an answer, identic in substance with that of His Majesty's Government,

to the Venezuelan proposal that Mr. Bowen should visit Washington for the purpose of discussing with the Representatives of the Powers concerned the possibility of an immediate settlement of the matters in dispute between Venezuela and those Powers, or the preliminaries of an appeal to the Tribunal at the Hague.

M. Carignani explained to me that the Italian claims differed in some respects from ours, and that the Italian Government had asked that their claims should receive a treatment "analogous" to that given to British claims of similar description.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 226.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 8, 1903.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 28, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note, with its inclosures, which I have received from the Secretary of State of the United States relative to the action of the United States' Minister at Carácas in taking charge of British interests in Venezuela.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 226.

Mr. Hay to Sir M. Herbert.

Excellency,

Department of State, Washington, December 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour, for your information, to inclose copy of a part of a despatch from the Minister of the United States at Carácas, reporting that he has taken charge of the interests of His Britannic Majesty's Government in Venezuela.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 226.

Mr. Bowen to Mr. Hay.

*Legation of the United States, Carácas, Venezuela,
December 13, 1902.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of the letters I received and sent in regard to the matter of taking charge of the British and German Legations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT W. BOWEN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 226.

Mr. Haggard to Mr. Bowen, December 8, 1902.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 217.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 226.

Mr. Bowen to Señor Baralt.

*Legation of the United States, Carácas, Venezuela,
December 8, 1902.*

Mr. Minister,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the British Minister, Mr. Haggard, has left Carácas temporarily, and that he has asked me to take charge of British interests

here during his absence. My Government has instructed me to comply with his request, after obtaining the consent of your Excellency's Government.

I therefore respectfully request that the Venezuelan Government grant me permission to take charge temporarily of British interests here.

I gladly avail, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT W. BOWEN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 226.

Señor Baralt to Mr. Bowen.

(Translation.)
Mr. Minister,

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United States of Venezuela,
Caracas, December 9, 1902.*

YOUR Excellency's note, which I received to-day, was a confirmation of a notice given to me yesterday by his Excellency Mr. Haggard, Minister Resident of His Britannic Majesty, to the effect that he was going temporarily on board one of His Majesty's men-of-war anchored in the harbour of La Guayra, and had left your Excellency in the meanwhile in charge of British interests. Your Excellency requests permission of the Venezuelan Government to represent said interests—a request which the Chief of the Government grants with the greatest pleasure to the Minister of a nation so friendly to Venezuela, and also as said representation will only be temporary, the only case where double representation is admitted.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) R. LOPEZ BARALT.

No. 227.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

Rome, January 8, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant:

No special reserves were contained in the Italian reply, but in the event of the character of the cases, respecting which the other Powers had made reserves, proving to be analogous to that of any of the cases put forward by Italy, she would, in respect to these cases, claim similar treatment.

No. 228.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 9.)

My Lord,

American Embassy, London, January 9, 1903.

I HAVE the honour, in accordance with instructions from my Government, to communicate to your Lordship the copy of a telegram which was received yesterday morning by Mr. Secretary Hay from Mr. Bowen, the American Minister at Caracas:—

“I have just received the following from President Castro:

“Mr. Minister,

“The Venezuelan Government accepts the conditions of Great Britain and Germany, and requests you to go immediately to Washington for the purpose of conferring there with the diplomatic Representatives of Great Britain, Germany, and with the diplomatic Representatives of the other nations that have claims against Venezuela, and to arrange either an immediate settlement of said claims, or the preliminaries for submitting them to arbitration.—(Signed) CIPRIANO CASTRO, Constitutional President.

“(Confidential.) If, as I understand, Great Britain and Germany want to know what guarantee they will have, please inform them that it will be the custom-houses; consequently, I beg that the blockade be raised at once.”

(Signed) “BOWEN.”

I am instructed, furthermore, to inform your Lordship that Mr. Bowen will proceed to Washington immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY WHITE.

No. 229.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 9, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date, in which you are so good as to communicate to me, in accordance with the instructions of your Government, copy of a telegram received yesterday by Mr. Secretary Hay from Mr. Bowen, the United States' Minister at Carácas, intimating that the Venezuelan Government accept the conditions proposed by Great Britain and Germany, and suggesting that Mr. Bowen should at once proceed to Washington to discuss the questions at issue with the Representatives of the Powers at Washington. You add that Mr. Bowen will proceed to Washington immediately.

This communication will receive prompt attention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 230.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 8, 1903.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a letter dated the 19th ultimo, from the Commander-in-chief on the North America and West Indies Station, together with its inclosures, relative to the seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats, &c.

2. It is requested that the Commander-in-chief's letter and its inclosures may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 230.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas to Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Ariadne," at Trinidad, December 19, 1902.

BE pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I arrived at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on the 10th instant, and found the state of affairs with regard to the Venezuelan difficulty to be as follows:—

2. The time allowed for a reply from the Government of Venezuela to the joint ultimatum expired at 3 P.M. on the 9th instant, and none having been received, the British Minister and staff had come down from Carácas to La Guayra and embarked on board His Majesty's ship "Retribution."

3. On the 9th December, Commodore Montgomerie dispatched the "Fantome" to Barrancas in the Orinoco, with orders to capture any Venezuelan Government vessels met with and to ensure the river being kept open for trade. He was to warn the Officer in command of the fort at Castillos not to interfere with vessels passing the fort, and that if he did so, Commander Hibbert would take immediate steps to prevent him, if necessary, shelling the fort.

4. At the same time the "Quail" was sent from Trinidad to La Guayra to obtain information, and the "Indefatigable" to the same place to relieve "Retribution."

5. On the evening of the 9th December, the "Charybdis" and "Alert" seized, without any opposition, the Venezuelan gun-boat "Bolivar" in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The officers were, at their own request, landed here and the men sent over to the mainland. Next day she proceeded to sea with a prize crew to search for Venezuelan Government vessels off the mouth of the Pedernales River. The "Alert, on a similar mission, left Trinidad for the Gulf of Paria.

6. The "Zamora" and the "Veinte Tres de Mayo" were captured without resistance by the "Alert" on the 11th December, and sent into Port of Spain.

7. The German ships captured without resistance the "Restaurador," "Crespo," and "Totumo."

8. The proceedings of His Majesty's ship "Retribution" are detailed in Captain Lyon's report of the 12th instant, attached. The steps taken to capture the "Ossun" and to disable the "Margarita," appear to have been satisfactory and well carried out, as were also those taken with the object of bringing off the members of the Harbour Corporation.

9. I also forward herewith Commodore Montgomerie's report of his operations at Puerto Cabello.

10. The "Alert" has seized without opposition, and sent into Port of Spain, the Government schooner "Coquette" and the cutter "Britania" (guarda costa), and these captures complete the whole list of the Venezuelan fleet, with the exception of the "Miranda," the whereabouts of which is not known. I append a list of prizes taken.

11. Upon receipt of the news of the capture of his vessels, President Castro arrested and imprisoned several English and German inhabitants of Carácas, but he subsequently released them all, and, apparently, with the object of stifling the remains of the revolutionary movement by an appeal to the patriotism of the country, he called upon all Venezuelans to unite in repelling the allies, which, however, has not met with much response, in fact, it was stated to me on apparently reliable authority, that not only had General Matos, the revolutionary leader, landed again in Venezuela, but that one of his armies numbering from 3,000 to 6,000 men, and large enough to deal with any force the President could bring against it, is now in the vicinity of Carácas. If this be true, it is not probable that our action will have any real effect in the direction of reconciling the two contending parties.

Inclosure 2 in No. 230.

Commander Eustace to Senior Naval Officer, Trinidad.

(Extract.)

"Alert," at Guiria, December 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in compliance with orders received from Commodore R. A. J. Montgomerie, I left Trinidad at 4 A.M. on the 10th December, and proceeded at full speed towards Guiria. At 7 A.M., I observed the Venezuelan cruiser "Zamora" endeavouring to escape to the north-east, but on finding that my speed was superior to his own, he returned to Guiria and anchored, where, on receipt of your formal demand, he surrendered at 9 A.M.

2. No resistance was offered by officers or crew, and with the exception of some of the engine-complement, who volunteered to work their passage to Trinidad, they were all landed at Guiria.

3. At 11.40 A.M., having landed the crews of the "Bolivar" and "Zamora," I proceeded with the "Zamora" towards Irapa, and met the "23 de Mayo" cruising in the Gulf, near Irapa.

4. On receipt of your demand, the "23 de Mayo" surrendered at 2.45 P.M.

5. The crew and soldiers were landed at Guiria, as I was unable to approach Yaguaraparo, where General Velutini's head-quarters now are.

6. Both the above vessels stated that the "Restaurador" was hourly expected at Guiria, also that the "Zumbador," being short of coal, must ere long return to Trinidad to obtain coal.

7. At 3.30 P.M., on the 10th December, I ordered the "Zamora" and "23 de Mayo," with prize crews, under the orders of Lieutenant H. W. Parker, to join you at Trinidad.

8. At 6 A.M., on the 11th December, the Venezuelan gun-boat "Zumbador" was sighted to the southward of Guiria, and on receipt of your demand, surrendered at 7 A.M. Her officers and crew were landed at Guiria. *

9. At 10.30 A.M., I sent her in charge of a prize crew, under the orders of Lieutenant E. A. D. Masterman, to join you at Trinidad.

Inclosure 3 in No. 230.

Captain Lyon to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas.

(Extract.)

"Retribution," at Trinidad, December 12, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, on my arrival at La Guayra on the 6th December, I received a letter from Captain W. J. Grogan, His Majesty's ship "Indefatigable," stating that he was in Carácas with the British Minister and that he was coming down by the 3 P.M. train. I called upon Commodore Scheder and he informed me that the joint ultimata would be presented at 3 P.M. on Sunday, the 7th December, that twenty-four hours after, if it was not accepted, the British Minister and German Chargé d'Affaires would come down and embark on board, that another twenty-four hours' grace would be given and that he had orders to act at 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 9th December. I informed him that I should proceed to Carácas to see the British Minister and return the following day (Sunday). Commodore Scheder returned my call at 2 P.M.

2. I proceeded to Carácas by the 3 P.M. train and met Captain Grogan at Zig-Zag, half-way, and he informed me that he had cabled to Commodore Montgomerie to come direct to La Guayra, as the German Commodore had orders to act at 3 P.M. on Tuesday. As the trains only waited two or three minutes while crossing, he told me that he would give me full particulars the next day, and that the British Minister would inform me of everything that was going on.

3. The German ships "Panther," and "Falke," arrived on the 8th December.

4. On the 8th I visited the German Commodore. We then arranged to hold a Conference the next morning to evolve a plan for cutting out the Venezuelan ships then in the harbour.

5. At 4 P.M. that day I landed to inform His Majesty's Vice-Consul at La Guayra, Mr. Rudolf Schunk, that his Excellency the British Minister at Carácas had left that town. Two cutters, under Lieutenant Colin A. M. Sarel, met the train, and conveyed his Excellency's luggage to the ship, and I brought off his Excellency, Mr. A. C. Grant Duff, Secretary of Legation, and Mr. Godfrey Haggard, Private Secretary, in my galley.

6. That night the "Falke" and "Gazelle" were ordered to sea to patrol the coast and to prevent any vessels escaping, and, if necessary, hold them until they were informed of the final answer to the ultimata.

7. At 10 A.M. on the 9th I went on board the "Vineta," accompanied by Lieutenant Archibald Deas. The Commodore and myself agreed that the "Vineta" should take the "General Crespo," the "Panther," the "Totumo," and that the "Retribution" should utterly disable the destroyer "Margarita," which was inside the camber hauled up for repairs and totally unseaworthy, and capture the "Ossun," a vessel hired from the French Railway Company by the Venezuelan Government, and that the boats would start at 4.45 P.M., covered by the "Panther," which was to get under weigh for that purpose. At 3 P.M., as there was no answer, I telegraphed to Commodore Montgomerie that the ultimata were rejected, and that we were going to act at 4.45 P.M.

8. At 4.15 the boats were manned and armed on the side of the ship nearest the sea, and placed under the command of Lieutenant Cecil E. Rooke, and at 4.45 the divisions from the several ships were towed into the harbour, and effected their purpose without any opposition; in fact, it was a most complete surprise.

The "Retribution" was cleared for action, and her guns, loaded with common shell, trained on the several forts. I wish to bring to your notice the very able manner in which Lieutenant Cecil E. Rooke, Lieutenant Archibald Deas, and Sub-Lieutenant Leveson G. B. A. Campbell carried out my orders. All ranks behaved admirably, and the engine-room party were most expeditious in removing the machinery from the "Margarita," from which also a dynamite gun and pom-pom were brought off.

The "Ossun" I made fast astern. I may mention here that, on the 10th, I received a note from the French Minister, drawing my attention to the fact that the "Ossun" belonged to a French Company. I replied that, if he would give me a guarantee that she should not be used by the Venezuelan Government until after the dispute between the British and German Governments on the one part and the Venezuelan Government on the other part was settled, I would at once surrender her to him. I informed Captain Grogan of this before leaving.

9. I then arranged a code of signals with the Harbour Corporation officials in

case of danger threatening the British subjects, having already offered to take them on board if they wished, moved the ship further out and anchored.

At about 11 P.M. Commodore Scheder sent word to me that he was landing 125 men to bring off the German Consul, who had made a signal of distress. I immediately manned and armed boats, went on board and placed my men at his disposal. He thanked me and said he did not think it would be necessary for them to land, so I sent them back to the ship.

10. I remained on board the "Vineta" until their landing party returned with the Consul. While on board her, I received a note from Mr. Prince, the Manager of the Harbour Corporation Board, stating that he had received information, and the British Vice-Consul had confirmed it, to the effect that President Castro had ordered all British and German subjects in Carácas to be arrested and that he would not allow the United States' Minister to look after them. The German Consul also informed me that all the British and Germans in La Guayra would be arrested at 5 A.M. (this was 2:30 A.M.) and that a large force of soldiers was being sent over the hills to La Guayra.

I returned to my ship shortly after, informed his Excellency, and decided to send an armed party to bring off all the British subjects who would come. His Excellency also sent an urgent letter to Mr. Prince, informing him that he ought to come off and that it was causing me much anxiety and would give me a freer hand to act if necessary. At 4:30 I sent Lieutenant Deas in command of the party consisting of 7 officers, 66 armed, and 5 unarmed men in the steam pinnace, first and second cutters with orders to deliver the letter to Mr. Prince and to bring off the Vice-Consul and any British who wished to come. Lieutenant Deas successfully carried out my instructions, bringing off everyone except the Harbour Corporation officials, who would not come.

During the time Lieutenant Deas was on shore the boats of the "Vineta" were manned and armed alongside the ship ready to give any assistance necessary, but, fortunately their services were not required.

11. The United States' steam-ship "Philadelphia" being alongside the wharf, the Vice-Consul offered to go to her and get messages sent to the Corporation buildings, urging them to come on the "Philadelphia," if possible, where I could safely send a boat.

At 11 A.M. the International Code pendant hoisted on board the steamer informed me that a boat was required. I sent in the steam-boat under Mr. H. I. N. Ryon, Midshipman, and he brought off the Vice-Consul, who informed me that Corporation Offices were besieged, and that he himself would have been prevented from leaving the shore by the Venezuelan police had not Mr. Ryon seized him and pulled him into the boat.

I then wrote a letter to the Prefect, a copy of which I inclose. Not receiving an answer to this by 0:30 P.M., and the "Quail" having arrived, I determined to send an armed party to bring the officials off.

At 2 P.M. I got under weigh and anchored as close in as possible, and ordered the "Quail" to anchor close to me. I then went on board the "Vineta" and informed Commodore Scheder. He agreed with me, and offered to assist with two boats and guns. I thankfully accepted his offer, and asked that his boats might cover my landing party and reinforce them if necessary.

I then sent a letter, a copy of which I inclose, to the Officer Commanding the Troops, and also a message to say that my attitude was defensive and not aggressive, which was conveyed on shore by the great courtesy of the Captain of the Spanish training-ship "Nautilus."

The boats left the ship in company with the Germans at 3:45, Lieutenant Deas being in command, the "Quail" being under way to cover them.

I showed Lieutenant-Commander Morant where the Venezuelan troops, who were in large numbers, were stationed, and gave him orders that, if a single shot was fired at our men, he was to fire with shrapnel and short-range fuze. The ship was cleared for action and guns loaded and trained on the forts.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the expedition was entirely successful, and that all British subjects known to be in La Guayra have left. Lieutenant Deas' dispositions were excellent, and too high praise cannot be given to the disposition of the German boats in covering the landing party.

Lieutenant-Commander Morant very ably carried out my instructions, and manœuvred his destroyer very cleverly.

The whole affair was over in about twenty minutes.

I went on board the "Vineta" and thanked the German Commodore for his assistance.

12. I then ordered the "Quail" to return to Trinidad. The "Indefatigable" arrived at 6 P.M., when I informed Captain Grogan of the state of affairs and left my prize, the "Ossun," in his charge, and left La Guayra at 10 P.M.

The Railway and Harbour Corporation buildings are in the hands of the Venezuelan troops.

We ascertained just before leaving that Mr. Almond, the Manager of the railway, Mr. Cherry, Venezuelan Central Railway, and Mr. Wallis, Manager of the Telephone Company, of whose arrest we had previously heard, were in the United States Minister's house, but of the British Consul, Mr. W. A. Andral, nothing is known.

I discharged the Vice-Consul and Mrs. Schunk, one gentleman and two ladies, to the "Philadelphia" before leaving, and have brought with me his Excellency the Minister, Mr. W. H. Doveton Haggard, Mr. A. C. Grant Duff, Secretary of Legation, and Mr. Godfrey Haggard, Private Secretary, and Mr. H. W. Prince, Mr. H. Fieldwick, and Mr. G. L. Lepage, of the Harbour Corporation, and Mr. J. Corry.

13. From La Guayra I proceeded to Carenero, and, not finding anything there, to La Guanta, where I found the "Vineta" and "Gazelle," who had captured the Venezuelan ship "Restaurador" yesterday morning. I called on the Commodore, who informed me that the "Gazelle" would call at Carupano the next morning accompanied by her prize.

The "Vineta" was going immediately to La Guayra, and, if there was no news there, would proceed to Puerto Cabello to try to capture the "Miranda." I then decided to proceed direct to Trinidad, where I have the honour to report my arrival to-day.

14. I inclose herewith copy of my orders to Lieutenant Rooke on taking charge of the cutting-out party, his report on the performance of the same, and Lieutenant Deas' report on the various landing-parties under his command; all of which may tend to throw further light on my proceedings during the last few days. On every occasion I warned the officer in command that it was necessary to avoid bloodshed, if possible, and I am happy to be able to report that this was the case. I wish to report, also, that the conduct of the officers and men, during a very critical situation, is worthy of great praise.

Inclosure 4 in No. 230.

Captain Lyon to Señor Leicibabaga.

(Translation.)

Sir,

"Retribution," December 10, 1902.

I HAVE heard that an unoffending British subject was violently arrested last night. He, fortunately, succeeded in escaping from the police who arrested him, and took refuge in the British Vice-Consulate.

The British Vice-Consul informs me, moreover, that, after he and his household had retired to rest last night, an attempt was made to entice him from his house, presumably with the intention of arresting him.

There are other Englishmen in La Guayra, notably the gentlemen forming the staff of the Harbour Corporation.

I have learnt that their house was last evening surrounded by police. If there is any intention of interfering with the liberty of these gentlemen, it is my duty to inform you of the very serious consequences that would follow such an outrage, and, in the event of their having been already arrested before this letter reaches you, I have to demand their immediate release.

It is not necessary for me to remind you that the custom-house, the public buildings, and the forts of La Guayra could be immediately destroyed by my guns.

Inclosure 5 in No. 230.

Captain Lyon to Officer Commanding Troops, La Guayra.

Sir,

"Retribution," December 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I am sending in a boat, under the command of the officer who will hand you this letter, to bring off to this ship the

gentlemen belonging to the Harbour Corporation, whom, I am informed, are being improperly detained in their house.

I have the honour to request that you will give the officer in command every facility in your power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LYON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 230.

Memorandum of Instructions to Lieutenant Rooke.

YOU are to proceed at 4.45 P.M. in command of an expedition from this ship, in conjunction with a force from the German squadron, but each ship acting separately according to orders. You are not to assist each other unless it becomes necessary.

2. The cutting-out party will consist of Lieutenant Cecil E. Rooke, in the second cutter with twenty-six men armed with rifles, the boat-keepers with revolvers, Lieutenant Archibald Deas, with a torpedo party consisting of Mr. John W. Evans, torpedo boatswain, one petty officer, first-class, two leading torpedo men and two crew, two engine-room artificers and four chief stokers, and Sub-Lieutenant Leveson G. B. A. Campbell in the first cutter, with twelve men, one leading torpedo man, and one seaman torpedo man. The steam-boat in charge of Mr. Harry J. Sobey, gunner, and Mr. Herbert I. N. Ryon, midshipman, will tow the boats in the following order:—

Second cutter (astern of steam-boat).
Then whaler,
And then first cutter,

dropping the first cutter abreast of the "Ossun."

Then, directly you have finished with the steam-boat you are to send her to assist in towing the "Ossun" out to this ship.

3. Lieutenant Deas is to disable the torpedo-boat so that it would be impossible to repair her under six months. You are to cover Lieutenant Deas' operations with the twenty-six men armed with rifles.

4. Expedition is necessary, and you must clearly understand that it is desirable to effect this object without bloodshed, if possible. You must take advantage of any shelter that is obtainable for the men. Silence must be observed in the boats, and strict attention to orders.

5. I leave the manner of carrying out the operations entirely to you, except for the few previous orders, which must be observed.

6. The cutters will be armed with Maxims, 360 rounds of ammunition for the Maxims, and 50 rounds per rifle.

7. The second cutter and whaler will find their own way back to the ship, the first cutter, whose crew will be armed with cutlasses and pistols, covering the towing off of the "Ossun."

8. The ship will be prepared for action.

(Signed) H. LYON, Captain.

"Retribution," at La Guayra,
December 9, 1902.

Inclosure 7 in No. 230.

Lieutenant Rooke to Captain Lyon.

Sir,

"Retribution," at La Guayra, December 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with your orders of the 9th instant, I left the ship in command of a party consisting of Mr. H. J. Sobey, acting gunner, and Mr. H. I. N. Lyon, midshipman, in the steam pinnace, manned by four seamen and two engine-room ratings, Lieutenant Archibald Deas, Mr. John W. Evans, boatswain (T) and eleven men, including six engine-room ratings in the whaler, Sub-Lieutenant Leveson G. B. A. Campbell, and sixteen men, including two

engine-room ratings in the first cutter, and thirty-one men, including eight stokers, in the second cutter, of which I was in charge, the boats leaving the ship at 4.45 P.M.

2. When near enough I detached the first cutter, and Sub-Lieutenant Campbell boarded the steam-ship "Ossun," which was at anchor about three cables from the shore, while I proceeded with the remainder to the entrance of the Camber, in which the destroyer "Margarita" was moored. Lieutenant Deas then boarded her, and the steam-pinnace returned to assist Sub-Lieutenant Campbell. I landed with my party on the inner side of the Camber, and disposed them in sections of five in positions as sheltered as possible which commanded the approaches to the Camber from the town, and which covered Lieutenant Deas' operations, then sending the second cutter to load such parts of the "Margarita's" machinery, &c., as Lieutenant Deas might remove.

3. Sub-Lieutenant Campbell performed his duty in a most efficient manner, parting the "Ossun's" cable by exploding a 2½-lb. charge of guncotton, and getting her in tow of the steam-pinnace within ten minutes of the time he boarded her. He reports to me that he sent her crew ashore in their own boat before getting under weigh. I consider that, owing to the "Ossun" being very light in the water and her steering gear being disabled, it required great judgment, both on his part and on the part of the officers in the steam-pinnace, to tow her out between the shipping to the ship.

4. When I saw that he had no more need of the first cutter—which, according to your orders, was covering the towing off of the "Ossun"—I ordered her to take up a position which would enable her to use her Maxim in support of my left sections, which had had to be extended over a large space owing to the lack of cover.

5. Lieutenant Deas performed his duty very quickly and thoroughly, being ably assisted by Mr. Evans, the engine-room ratings with him removing portions of machinery, while the seamen removed the dynamite gun, pompom, arms, and ammunition. All this gear was loaded in the second cutter and whaler.

When he was ready I ordered him to return to the ship, and, when his boats were well clear of the Camber, closed my sections in, embarked them in the first cutter, and followed him.

6. The behaviour of all ranks and ratings was excellent, and perfect silence was maintained and great alacrity shown during the whole operation. I beg to specially draw your attention to the amount and weight of the machinery removed from the "Margarita" in such an extremely short space of time. This is due to the excellent work performed by—

John E. Phillips, E.R.A., Second Class, O.N. 152098 ;
William T. Glanvill, Chief Stoker, O.N. 143127 ;
Sidney Baker, Stoker, O.N. 276995 ;
Frederick A. T. Shattock, Stoker, O.N. 293261 ;
John Hurley, Stoker, O.N. 171329 ; and
Charles E. Coulman, Stoker, O.N. 277158.

7. While these operations were in progress, boats from His Imperial German Majesty's ships "Vineta" and "Panther," covered by the latter, which had got under weigh for that purpose, had boarded, cut the cables of the Venezuelan ships "General Crespo" and "Totumo," and towed them out to a position near the "Vineta."

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. ROOKE.

Inclosure 8 in No. 230.

Lieutenant Deas to Captain Lyon.

Sir,

"Retribution," at Sea, December 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with your orders, at 4.30 A.M. on the 10th December, 1902, I landed in charge of a party of seventy men and two officers, to bring off to the ship as many British subjects as wished to come on board for safety. On my arrival at the jetty, I left Lieutenant Colin A. M. Sarel, R.N., and Mr. Harry J. Sobey, Gunner, R.N., with fifty men, to guard the boats, and proceeded myself with the remainder to the Corporation buildings, where I informed the

inhabitants of the state of affairs, and told them I would take them on board if they so wished. I then proceeded to the British Consulate and informed the Consul, asking him at the same time to inform me if there were any other British subjects whom I could warn in time. The only others in the town were Mr. A. H. Kell, his wife, and three children, who, together with Mr. R. Schunck, Consul, his wife, child, and sister-in-law, I escorted to the boats and brought safely on board, arriving at 6.30 A.M. Before leaving the shore, I again visited the Corporation buildings, and asked Messrs. H. W. Prince, H. Fieldwick, G. L. Le Sage, and O. Schnell, the latter being a German subject, if they desired to come on board, and was told in reply that they had decided to remain on shore. I therefore left them as daylight was nearly come in, and armed troops were close round me.

2. I have also the honour to report that, in compliance with your orders, I landed on the 10th December, at 3.40 P.M., in command of a landing-party of seventy-four seamen and stokers and nine Royal Marine Light Infantry, covered by His Majesty's ship "Quail," Lieutenant and Commander E. R. Morant, R.N., and three boats of His Majesty's ship "Vineta." I was accompanied by Lieutenant Colin A. M. Sarel, R.N., Sub-Lieutenant L. G. B. A. Campbell, R.N., Sub-Lieutenant John G. B. Harrison, R.N.R., and Mr. Harry J. Sobey, R.N. On landing I took the marines with me, and left Lieutenant C. A. M. Sarel in charge of the remainder to cover my movements and protect the boats, with orders to take what cover was possible, as there were a large number of armed troops close round. I proceeded to the Corporation House, which I found strongly guarded in front and on each side, but with the rear unprotected; and, having taken shelter there, I waited until the inmates were ready, when I withdrew with them to the boats and brought them on board. On landing, I was requested by some official to wait until the Governor could be summoned, but, taking into consideration the urgency of the case, and noting the evident bad temper of the Venezuelan troops, I decided to act at once.

On both these occasions the conduct and bearing of both officers and men serving under me was very good, and the discipline excellent. Lieutenant C. A. M. Sarel, who was in charge of the covering-party, disposed them to the best advantage, and materially assisted me in carrying out your orders without any bloodshed. The three boats from His Majesty's ship "Vineta" I requested to cover my landing-party from outside the breakwater, and their presence, to a large extent, prevented any trouble taking place. These boats were formed in line abreast, bows on, to my landing-party at a distance of about 200 yards, and their Maxim guns and rifles were kept constantly covering my movements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. DEAS.

Inclosure 9 in No. 230.

Commodore Montgomerie to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas.

Sir,

"Charybdis," at La Guayra, December 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that after parting company with your flag at Trinidad on the 10th instant, I proceeded towards La Guayra, calling at Patos Island *en route*, and also keeping a look-out for any Venezuelan gun-boats or guarda-costas.

2. About 3 A.M. on the 12th, I met the German cruiser "Vineta" at sea, and, after communicating with her, both ships proceeded to La Guayra.

3. Hearing that the British steamer "Topaze" had been seized and looted at Puerto Cabello, and her officers and crew imprisoned, I left the same evening, in company with the "Vineta," for that port, arriving next morning.

4. We found the facts to be as stated. The captain and crew had been grossly ill-treated and imprisoned from Tuesday evening to midnight on Wednesday, when they were released. Next day, however, the captain was compelled to haul down his colours.

5. I accordingly sent in a cutter under Lieutenant Rawson, with an armed boat's crew, to bring the "Topaze" out of the harbour as soon as her steam was ready. In the meantime I took up a position so as to sweep the quay with my guns should the soldiers attempt to rush her. However, all passed off quietly and the ship was brought out and anchored.

6. As "Charybdis" and "Vineta" were cleared for action, the authorities on

shore apparently got nervous, and the American and two other Consuls came off to inquire whether I was going to seize the Custom-house.

7. Commodore Scheder was with me at the time, and as the American Consul could not come on board, having a damaged hand, and being unable to get up the side, we both went down and held a Conference in the Consul's boat.

8. This was at about 11 A.M., the authorities apparently knew what the real trouble was, as, during our interview, when I spoke about the outrage committed, Mr. Valkmar, the United States' Vice-Consul, said that they stated that it had been done by the mob and not by the Government.

9. I pointed out that the Government were responsible for an act committed by the mob, as they had the power to stop it, and that, if they had been unable to do so, they could do no less than apologise, which would be merely ordinary courtesy.

10. I requested the United States' Consul to inform the authorities that unless I received an apology at once for the insults offered to the British flag and the ill-treatment of the steamer's captain and crew (who had been driven through the streets at the point of the bayonet, some of them nearly naked, having been hauled out of their bunks), as well as an assurance that British and German subjects would not be molested in the future, we would bombard the forts, and that, in the event of their using the three Krupp field guns they had brought down on the beach opposite the ship, we would also demolish the Custom-house. The latter we could have done without injury to the town. In this action the German Commodore entirely concurred.

11. Soon afterwards I received a note from Mr. Valkmar, in which he stated he hoped to be able shortly to forward the explanations required, and I afterwards had a message from him to say that they had telegraphed to Carácas for instructions, and had got no reply.

12. Receiving no answer to our demand, Commodore Scheder and I sent a joint letter to say that, unless a reply was received by 5 P.M., we would demolish the forts, and also, should any firing take place from the town, the Custom-house, also warning them to remove the garrison and prisoners from the forts.

13. No answer being received to this letter, "Charybdis" and "Vineta" took up their stations for bombarding. I arranged with Commodore Scheder that, on my hauling down a pre-arranged signal, both ships should open fire, "Charybdis": port battery on Fort Libertador, and starboard on Fort Vigia, "Vineta" on Fort Vigia.

14. At 5.7 P.M. signal was hauled down and bombardment commenced. Fort Libertador replied by rifle fire but not by gun, and I subsequently found they had all their guns on the wrong side of the fort, so as to be a menace to the town, and presumably had not time to shift them round.

15. Fort Vigia fired a few shots from her two guns, one of which fell and burst short of "Charybdis" and another of which passed over her, but the guns were soon abandoned, and, after a short time, the flags were hauled down in both forts.

16. Firing from ships lasted twenty minutes, but I had five times to sound "Cease fire" on account of not being able to see the fort through the dust and smoke caused by the bursting shell.

17. Some rifle shots were fired at "Charybdis" from the town, a few of them hitting the ship, but it was so inconsiderable that I took no notice of it. Directly after firing ceased I sent in Lieutenant Rawson and an armed boat's crew to take possession of the fort and blow up the guns, and also asked the Germans to do the same.

18. Our boat reached the shore first, and Lieutenant Rawson found the Governor of Fort Libertador, the 2nd Commandant, 12 officers and about 20 soldiers, also 35 prisoners (criminals).

19. Most of the garrison had escaped by dropping over the eastern wall of the fort, during the bombardment, into the shallow water. Two of them were found next morning with broken legs, having been in the water all night. They stated that they had been blown off the parapet by the bursting of a shell. These were the only casualties in that fort.

20. The fort was then taken formal possession of by an Anglo-German force, sentries placed, &c.

21. We found in the fort two quite modern Krupp guns (about 3-inch calibre), three 64-pr. breech-loaders, nine old Spanish brass guns, one of which weighed about 3 tons, and two muzzle-loading iron guns, about 18-pr.; also about forty unmounted 64-pr.

22. As stated before, all the guns were mounted on the wrong side of the fort

for repelling an attack from the position I had taken up, except one 64-pr. which commanded the entrance to the harbour and could not fire to seaward.

23. Next day "Charybdis" and "Vineta" landed demolition parties. The modern and all mounted iron guns were blown up. The small brass guns were taken on board ship. I have four in "Charybdis," and also one of the flags flown over the fort.

24. We found the dens in which the unfortunate political prisoners had been kept till quite recently in a most filthy and insanitary state.

25. The interior of the fort, prison doors, &c., and the bridge over the moat have been destroyed by guncotton, and the magazine blown up.

26. Commodore Scheder and I decided not to send a party to Fort Vigia, as, from what the American Consul told us, there were from 2,000 to 3,000 armed men in the hills at the back of the town, who could have fired on them from the heights as they went up the road.

27. Fort Vigia was a good deal knocked about. "Charybdis" range for Fort Libertador was 1,000 yards, for Fort Vigia 2,500 yards. The shooting was excellent. No shots fell in or anywhere near the town.

28. On the afternoon of the 14th, arrangements having been made with the local authorities, through the United States' Vice-Consul, the criminals found in the fort were handed over to them, and the officers and soldiers set at liberty, the two injured men being first attended to by the Staff Surgeon of the "Charybdis."

29. Shortly after the bombardment was over I received a letter from the local authorities, containing no sort of apology for the insult to the British flag, but merely an evasive reply, stating that the British and German subjects at present enjoyed full liberty, but offering no assurance that this liberty would continue or that they would in the future be unmolested.

30. Officers and men all worked very well indeed, and, without making any invidious distinction, I should like to mention the name of Lieutenant Rawson, who carried out the duties entrusted to him in a most intelligent manner, and with dash and coolness. Mr. Head, Midshipman, who accompanied him, also showed that he had the makings of a good officer.

31. I trust that the proceedings of the German Commodore and myself will meet with your approval, and also with that of the British and German Governments.

32. I left Puerto Cabello last night for La Guayra, the "Vineta" remaining to protect German and British subjects. When relieved by the "Panther" to-day, she will proceed to Curaçao.

33. I met the "Quail" last night at sea, and received your orders as to blockade. The "Quail" continued to Puerto Cabello with your letter for Commodore Scheder, and has returned here, *en route* for Trinidad.

34. I am leaving at once for Curaçao to meet "Vineta."

35. In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the very loyal manner in which Commodore Scheder assisted me in upholding the honour of the British flag, and I have much pleasure in saying that, from the Commodore downwards, the relations between the two ships are of the best.

36. I should also like to mention the valuable assistance rendered to us by Mr. Valkner, the United States' Consul at Puerto Cabello, who acted as a go-between, and also gave us much useful information as to the state of affairs in the town. He appeared, and was, I am sure, most anxious to assist us in every way.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. A. MONTGOMERIE.

P.S.—I have just received from the Captain of the Italian war-ship "G. Bausan" a translation of a letter he has received to-day from his Consul here, which clearly shows that the bombardment has had a most excellent effect already, and I quite believe that, if it were necessary to do so, and I required that the forts here should haul down their flags at an hour's notice, my demand would be complied with rather than undergo a bombardment.

We have just observed the train leaving for Carácas with a gun, which looks as if they were afraid of the forts being captured and the guns blown up.

R. A. M.

Inclosure 10 in No. 230.

Commander Eustace to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Douglas.

Sir,

"Alert," at Trinidad, December 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in compliance with your orders, I proceeded in His Majesty's ship under my command, at 10.30 P.M. on the 12th December to Cumaná, where I arrived at 7.15 P.M. on the 13th.

2. Although dark, our arrival was at once reported by means of signal lights, and troops were sent to the custom-house. It was stated that there are now no guns in the forts, and that the field guns have been sent to Guiria.

3. The Government schooner "Coqueta," at anchor off the custom-house, was then seized, and the crew landed without any interference. The "Coqueta" was towed to Araya Bay, where I remained at anchor from 10.30 P.M. on the 13th till 4 A.M. on the 14th, when I proceeded to windward of Coche, where I slipped the "Coqueta," and sent her in charge of Mr. P. W. C. Sharpe, Midshipman, and a prize crew of twelve men, to join your flag at Trinidad.

4. I then proceeded to search the Island of Margarita for Venezuelan Government vessels, and visited Chacopata, Coche, Por la Mar, Port Mareno, Pampeta, San Juan Grego, and some small fishing villages.

5. The Venezuelan Government schooner "Marsiella," while carrying troops, went ashore at Puerto Cabello, about the 10th instant, and is stated to have broken up. The Government schooner "Americano" could not be seen or heard of. The steam-launch belonging to General Asuncion Rodriguez, and used for carrying despatches from Margarita, is stated to be now in German hands.

6. At 10.35 P.M. on the 14th I anchored in Esmeralda Bay, and not finding the "Coqueta" at this rendezvous, proceeded at 4 A.M. on the 15th to Carupano, where the Government sailing-cutter "Britania" was seized at 6.30 A.M., and the only one of the crew on board was landed at Porto Santo, the second rendezvous.

7. On passing Esmerelda Point a signal light on a hill near Escondito was burnt, showing that an efficient look-out system is maintained. The forts and outposts on all the hills near Carupano were manned, but only one field gun was visible. No attempt was made to prevent our removing the "Britania."

8. Finding that smallpox was prevalent at Porto Santo, no communication was allowed, and observing His Majesty's prize "Coqueta" to leeward, I took her in tow, and proceeded to Trinidad, where I arrived at 0.30 P.M. on the 16th December, 1902.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN EUSTACE.

Inclosure 11 in No. 230.

List of Venezuelan Government Vessels, showing their disposal.

Name.	Description.	If Captured—		Remarks.
		By whom.	When.	
"Marsiella"	Schooner .. ..	.. ..	..	Reported to have gone ashore at Puerto Cabello about 10th December and broken up.
"Bolivar" ..	Torpedo gun-boat ..	"Charybdis" and "Alert" ..	9th December ..	At Port of Spain.
"Restaurador"	Armed yacht ..	German squadron ..	Not known.	
"Zamora" ..	" transport ..	"Alert" ..	10th December ..	Off Guiria.
"Zumbador"	" tug ..	"Alert" ..	11th "	Captured southward of Guiria.
"Miranda" ..	Gun-boat ..	Not yet seized.		
"Veinte tres de Mayo"	Small armed despatch-boat ..	"Alert" ..	10th "	Captured off Tiburone's Point, near Trapa.
"Crespo" ..	Armed yacht ..	} German squadron	9th "	"Crespo" and "Tortuno" destroyed by Germans.
"Tortuno" ..	" launch ..			
"Margarita" (or "Raya")	Torpedo-boat ..	.. ..	..	Not captured, but engines destroyed by "Retribution" on 9th December, as she <i>could not</i> be got out of Camber, at La Guayra.
"Ossun" ..	French transport hired by Venezuela	"Retribution" ..	9th December, at La Guayra	French Consul at La Guayra informed that "Ossun" would be given up to him on receipt of a guarantee that she would not be returned to Venezuela.
"Coqueta" ..	Schooner (small arms)	"Alert" ..	13th December ..	At Cumaná.
"Britania" ..	Revenue sailing-cutter	"Alert" ..	15th "	At Carupano.
"Americano"	Schooner	Not yet captured.		

(Signed) A. L. DOUGLAS, Vice-Admiral.

No. 231.

Memorandum communicated by Count Metternich, January 10, 1903.

(Translation.)

THE Imperial Government interprets the reply from President Castro of the 8th January, 1903, to mean that he accepts unconditionally the reservations made in the German note of the 22nd December, 1902. The Venezuelan Government would, therefore, have to pay the claim mentioned in reservation 1, or provide a guarantee for its payment, before entering into the negotiations. As President Castro's answer contains no statement as to when or how this payment is to be made or this guarantee given, further information is necessary as regards this point. In particular, in the event of there being no immediate payment, the security would have to be clearly explained, and it would have to be laid down, in the event of the guarantee being on the customs, by what method payment would be effected from the latter. No further negotiations with Venezuela could be entered upon until payment has been effected or sufficient security actually given.

The Imperial Government ventures to request the Government of the United States to transmit this answer also to President Castro.

No. 232.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 12, 1903.)

My Lord,

Trinidad, December 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of a Proclamation issued by the President soon after the news of the seizure of the Venezuelan ships of war in the harbour of La Guayra reached Carácas.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Proclamation by General Castro, dated December 9, 1902.

THE following is a free translation of General Castro's Proclamation to the nation on the occasion of the seizure of the Venezuelan fleet by the allies:—

“Venezuelans!

“The foot of the insolent stranger has profaned the sacred soil of the Fatherland. An act has been committed which stands alone in the history of nations as being without precedent, and without any possible justification. It is a barbarous act, directed against the most rudimentary principles of the most cherished rights of nations. The act which has just taken place in the port of La Guayra is one which is at once ignoble, immoral, abusing our friendship, and savouring of both cowardice and treachery.

“The German and the English squadrons have suddenly and simultaneously taken action, and surprised three defenceless ships belonging to our fleet which had just entered dock for repairs.

“Venezuelans!

“The duel that we are called upon to fight is most unequal, because the attempt upon our Fatherland has been made by the two most powerful nations of Europe. We are scarcely convalescent from a long and painful conflict, and because this has been realized by our enemies we are attacked in this most treacherous manner. Venezuela could not and did not expect such insolent aggression, and especially as there was no precedent for it. But justice is on our side, and the God of nations who inspired Bolivar and the phalanx of heroes who were his companions in the great work he accomplished, and bequeathed to us at the cost of so great a sacrifice—the Fatherland, liberty, and indepen-

dence—will inspire us, his sons, in these decisive movements, to preserve throughout the conflict our national life, and strengthen us in our sacrifices, and assist us in the noble work of consolidating our national independence.

“For my part, I am prepared to sacrifice all things on the revered and awful altar of the Fatherland! I abandon my sense of injury, the result of our internal differences, and I have forgotten ingratitude which may have occurred in the past. The past is obliterated from my thoughts, and, as a politician and a soldier, everything has disappeared which was hostile to my intentions; everything which could leave pain in my heart has gone, and I only see before me the illumined vision of the Fatherland as it was dreamed of by Bolivar, and as I desire to ever behold it. But the Fatherland cannot be great and powerful except in the pure atmosphere of perfect brotherhood of its sons. Circumstances demand the concurrence of all in these sentiments, and, under this necessity, I open the gates of all the prisons of the Republic, and I release all political prisoners. I open, too, the gates of the Fatherland to those Venezuelans who, for similar reasons, have fled from the country, and I restore them to the full enjoyment of their Constitutional rights and liberties. The properties and estates of all revolutionists which have been seized by the State in the interest of public order are returned to them. Furthermore, if I outlive these events, and it is necessary for the welfare of the Fatherland to remove me from the elevated position with which I have been honoured by my people, and in which I am going to fight for our liberties, I am quite prepared to withdraw, and to return again into private life. I here dedicate my sword to the service of the Republic, and you can be assured that, when the time comes, I shall retire satisfied, and without desire to return to power, for my greatest aspirations are to see my country great, prosperous, and happy! Venezuelans! the sun of Carabobo returns to illuminate the horizon of the Fatherland, and its resplendent beams of light will raise in us a valour equal to that of Queseras del Medio sacrifices like those of Ricaurte, terror like that of Pantango and Vargas, heroism like that of Rivas, and heroes like those which form the brilliant constellation of our epics, and by a happy coincidence we shall celebrate another classical date as sacred to a decisive battle for the liberties of South America—the battle of Ayacucho. I ardently desire that new Sucre may arise to illustrate the future glorious pages of our national history.

(Signed) “CIPRIANO CASTRO.

“Caracas, December 9, 1902.”

No. 233.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1903.

THE United States' Chargé d'Affaires told me to-day that he was instructed to inform me that Mr. Bowen had expressed to the United States' Government his anxiety that the Venezuelan blockade should be raised at the earliest possible moment on account of the scarcity of provisions in Venezuela, which threatened general distress.

I told Mr. White that much as we desired that the blockade should not be unnecessarily prolonged, I did not see how it was possible for us to raise it at this moment. I had not failed to take note of Mr. Bowen's statement contained in the note which Mr. White had handed to me on the 9th instant. It ran as follows:—

“If, as I understand, Great Britain and Germany want to know what guarantee they will have, please inform them that it will be the custom-houses.”

This no doubt amounted to an intimation that the Venezuelan Government were prepared, in one manner or another, to hypothecate their Customs revenue for the purpose of meeting their liabilities in respect of the compensation due to the Powers. We could not, however, considering the past conduct of the Venezuelan Government, afford to remove the pressure, which had apparently brought them to a tardy recognition of their obligations, until we had something more specific than this to go upon. It seemed to us that the first step to be taken was that Mr. Bowen should meet our Representative at Washington, and should satisfy him that the proposals which he is empowered to submit are in strict accordance with the conditions set forth in my Memorandum of the 23rd December and note of 5th January, and, in particular, that he is authorized to effect a prompt and satisfactory settlement of those British claims which are included in the first of the three categories enumerated in the earlier notes.

The question of guarantees for the satisfaction of the remaining claims would also

have to be carefully examined, and we were engaged in preparing instructions to you upon these and other points.

I could hold out no hopes that, until a satisfactory understanding had been arrived at with regard to them, the blockade would be raised. It would obviously be most inconvenient to raise it and afterwards to reimpose it in the event of the negotiations not proceeding satisfactorily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 234.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1903.

YOUR Excellency is aware from the papers transmitted to you that on the 13th December the United States' Chargé d'Affaires addressed a note to me, stating that the Government of Venezuela had requested the United States' Minister at Carácas to communicate to His Majesty's Government a proposition to the effect that the difficulty respecting the manner of settling claims for injuries to British subjects during the insurrection in Venezuela should be submitted to arbitration.

Mr. White told me on the 17th December that he had received instructions to inform me that the Venezuelan Government now earnestly wish for arbitration, which, in the opinion of the United States' Government, seemed to afford a most desirable solution of the questions in dispute.

The proposal thus put forward through the Government of the United States received most careful consideration, and on the 23rd December I handed to Mr. White the reply of His Majesty's Government, which was as follows:—

"The scope and intention of the proposal made by the Venezuelan Government would obviously require further explanation. Its effect would apparently be to refer to arbitration only such claims as had reference to injuries resulting from the recent insurrection. This formula would evidently include a part only of the claims put forward by the two"—British and German—"Governments, and we are left in doubt as to the manner in which the remaining claims are to be dealt with.

"Apart, however, from this, some of the claims are of a kind which no Government could agree to refer to arbitration. The claims for injuries to the person and property of British subjects owing to the confiscation of British vessels, the plundering of their contents, and the maltreatment of their crews, as well as some claims for the ill-usage and false imprisonment of British subjects, are of this description. The amount of these claims is comparatively insignificant, but the principle at stake is of the first importance, and His Majesty's Government could not admit that there was any doubt as to the liability of the Venezuelan Government in respect of them.

"His Majesty's Government desire, moreover, to draw attention to the circumstances under which arbitration is now proposed to them.

"The Venezuelan Government have during the last six months had ample opportunities for submitting such a proposal. On the 30th July and again on the 11th November, it was intimated to them in the clearest language that unless His Majesty's Government received satisfactory assurances from them, and unless some steps were taken to compensate the parties injured by their conduct, it would become necessary for His Majesty's Government to enforce their just demands. No attention was paid to these solemn warnings, and, in consequence of the manner in which they were disregarded, His Majesty's Government found themselves reluctantly compelled to have recourse to the measures of coercion which are now in progress.

"His Majesty's Government have, moreover, already agreed that in the event of the Venezuelan Government making a Declaration that they will recognize the principle of the justice of the British claims, and that they will at once pay compensation in the shipping cases, and in the cases where British subjects had been falsely imprisoned or maltreated, His Majesty's Government will be ready, so far as the remaining claims are concerned, to accept the decision of a Mixed Commission, which will determine the amount to be paid and the security to be given for payment. A corresponding intimation has been made by the German Government.

This mode of procedure seemed to both Governments to provide a reasonable and adequate mode of disposing of their claims. They have, however, no objection

to substitute for the Special Commission a reference to arbitration, with certain essential reservations. These reservations are, so far as the British claims are concerned, as follows :—

“ 1. The claims (small, as has already been pointed out, in pecuniary amount) arising out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and outrages on their crews, and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects, are not to be referred to arbitration.

“ 2. In cases where the claim is for injury to, or wrongful seizure of, property, the questions which the Arbitrators will have to decide will only be (a), whether the injury took place and whether the seizure was wrongful, and (b), if so, what amount of compensation is due. That in such cases a liability exists must be admitted in principle.

“ 3. In the case of claims other than the above, we are ready to accept arbitration without any reserve.

“ It would, in the opinion of both Governments, be necessary that the Arbitral Tribunal should not only determine the amount of compensation payable by Venezuela, but should also define the security to be given by the Venezuelan Government, and the means to be resorted to for the purpose of guaranteeing a sufficient and punctual discharge of the obligation.

“ Should the President of the United States be willing to undertake the task of Arbitrator, the British and German Governments would avail themselves of his good offices with the highest satisfaction.

“ If it should unfortunately prove impossible for the President to render this important service to the two Governments, they are prepared to refer the questions at issue to arbitration by the Hague Tribunal.”

By a note dated the 27th December, Mr. White informed me that the President of the United States profoundly appreciated the courtesy with which the Powers in interest had suggested his name as Arbitrator in the matters now pending in Venezuela ; and if no other—or no better—means of settling the subjects in dispute presented themselves, he would willingly comply with the wishes of the Powers, and give his best efforts to an end so laudable. But the President had thought it most desirable from the beginning that the entire controversy should be submitted to the judgment of that high Tribunal at the Hague which had been created by the principal Powers of the world for the consideration of precisely such causes, involving, as the present controversy did, no question of national honour nor the cession of territory.

After a thorough consultation with all of the Powers concerned, during which the President had found an honourable spirit of candour and of mutual consideration animating every one of them, he had been greatly gratified to learn that, in the event of his not undertaking the important duty to which the Powers had invited him, they would all be willing to accept a reference to the Hague.

The President had, therefore, the greatest pleasure in announcing to the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and Venezuela that all of them had accepted in principle the proposition of a reference of pending questions to the Tribunal of the Hague.

If the President could be of any further service in arranging the preliminaries of such an understanding, he would gladly hold himself at the disposition of the Powers concerned ; and if their Representatives should find it desirable to meet in Washington he would be happy to welcome them there, and to facilitate their labours in every possible way.

In handing me this note, Mr. White inquired whether, as the Venezuelan Government had accepted the principle of arbitration by the Hague Tribunal, the President was at liberty to communicate to that Government the conditions embodied in my communication of the 23rd instant.

I told Mr. White that there could be no objection to this. I expressed the regret with which I had learnt that the President had found himself unable to undertake the office of Arbitrator, and I took note of his considerate offer to hold himself at the disposition of the Powers concerned, in the event of his assistance being required in arranging the preliminaries of a reference to arbitration. I added, however, that it seemed to me that, for the moment, there was nothing more to be done until we knew whether our terms were acceptable to the Venezuelan Government.

On the 1st instant Mr. White communicated to me the following copy of a telegram received on the previous day by Mr. Secretary Hay from Mr. Bowen, the United States' Minister at Carácas :—

"I have received the following answer from the President of Venezuela :

"I recognize, in principle, the claims which the allied Powers have presented to Venezuela. They would already have been settled if it had not been that the civil war required all the attention and all the resources of the Government. To-day the Government bows to superior force, and desires to send Mr. Bowen to Washington at once to confer there with the Representatives of the Powers that have claims against Venezuela, in order to arrange either an immediate settlement of all the claims, or the preliminaries for a reference to the Tribunal of the Hague, or to an American Republic, to be selected by the allied Powers and by the Government of Venezuela. Mr. Bowen would be duly authorized to settle the whole question as the Representative of Venezuela.

(Signed) "CIPRIANO CASTRO."

The decision of His Majesty's Government was conveyed to Mr. White on the 5th instant.

They observed with satisfaction President Castro's statement, that he recognized "in principle" the claims which they had put forward. His Majesty's Government understood this statement to signify that President Castro agreed on the part of the Venezuelan Government that any discussions in which Mr. Bowen, as the Representative of that Government, was to engage at Washington with the Representative of His Majesty's Government were to proceed upon the assumption that the Venezuelan Government unreservedly accepted and agreed to be bound by the conditions laid down on the 23rd December.

On receiving a definite assurance from President Castro that this interpretation of his language was accepted by him as correct, and that whatever procedure were adopted adequate provision would be made for the prompt satisfaction of the claims specified in paragraph 1 of the conditions, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to authorize His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to confer on this basis with Mr. Bowen, as the Representative of the Venezuelan Government, and would furnish your Excellency with the necessary instructions for examining the possibility of an immediate settlement, or, failing such a settlement, for arranging a reference of all points left open for arbitration to the Tribunal at the Hague.

The reply from the President of Venezuela, received by Mr. Hay on the 8th instant and transmitted to me by Mr. White on the 9th in the form of a telegram from Mr. Bowen, was as follows :—

"I have just received the following from President Castro :

'Mr. Minister—The Venezuelan Government accepts the conditions of Great Britain and Germany, and requests you to go immediately to Washington for the purpose of conferring there with the diplomatic Representatives of Great Britain, Germany, and with the diplomatic Representatives of the other nations that have claims against Venezuela, and to arrange either an immediate settlement of said claims, or the preliminaries for submitting them to arbitration.—(Signed) CIPRIANO CASTRO, *Constitutional President*.'

"(Confidential.) If, as I understand, Great Britain and Germany want to know what guarantee they will have, please inform them that it will be the custom-houses ; consequently, I beg that the blockade be raised at once.—BOWEN."

Mr. White was instructed to inform me at the same time that Mr. Bowen would proceed to Washington immediately, and I have since learned that he is expected to reach New York on the 19th instant.

I have now to give your Excellency the following instructions :—

Mr. Bowen will no doubt on his arrival at Washington ask you either directly or through the United States' Government to receive him, and you should in reply intimate that you are authorized to confer with him, as the Representative of the Venezuelan Government, for the purpose of examining the possibility of an immediate settlement of the claims put forward by His Majesty's Government, or, failing such a settlement, of arranging a reference of all points left open for arbitration to the Tribunal at The Hague.

The course of the negotiations will, in a great measure, depend upon the instructions with which Mr. Bowen has been furnished, and you will, in the first place, ascertain whether the proposals which he is empowered to submit are in strict accordance with the conditions set forth in my Memorandum of the 23rd December and note of the 5th January, to which reference has been already made.

Whether those proposals are made in contemplation of an immediate settlement without reference to arbitration, or whether the discussion is directed to the prelimi-

naries of arbitration, it will be indispensable that Mr. Bowen should at the outset satisfy you that he is authorized to arrive at a prompt and satisfactory settlement of those British claims which are included in the first of the three categories enumerated in the Memorandum of the 23rd December, claims namely which arise out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and the outrages on their crews, and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects. These claims amount to about 5,500l., and His Majesty's Government require that this liability should be at once satisfied.

Other claims for compensation, including the railway claims and those for injury to, or wrongful seizure of, property are estimated as amounting to about 600,000l. His Majesty's Government will be ready to accept in satisfaction of these claims either a sufficient cash payment or a guarantee based on security which must be adequate, and which the Venezuelan Government must be bound not to alienate for any other purpose. His Majesty's Government will be ready to renew the proposal which they deemed it equitable to make in the first instance, viz., that, before the amount to be actually handed over to claimants of this class is finally decided, a Commission, upon which Venezuela would be represented, should be appointed to examine and report upon the amount to be awarded in satisfaction of each claim. It would probably be convenient that the Commission, if appointed, should meet at Port of Spain. Should a cash payment have been accepted by His Majesty's Government they will be prepared to refund any surplus which may be available after the examination.

It is desirable that advantage should be taken of this opportunity in order to effect a settlement of the claims of the bondholders. The British creditors are principally interested in the loan of 1881. This loan represents the outcome of various arrangements under which the bondholders have submitted to large reductions in their claims. On the 31st December last there were fifty-six monthly instalments of the debt service in arrear representing a sum of about 394,625l. An arrangement for the settlement of the External Debt of Venezuela has been drawn up by the Council of Foreign Bondholders and the Disconto Gesellschaft of Berlin. The terms of this arrangement seem to be of a liberal character, and should be acceptable to the Venezuelan Government. I understand that in March 1901 the Venezuelan National Assembly passed a Law authorizing the President to make a settlement with the Bondholders on these lines. I inclose copies of Memoranda furnished to me by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, showing the present position of the 1881 and 1896 loans.

If the endeavour to arrive at a direct settlement should prove unavailing, you will proceed to discuss with Mr. Bowen the preliminaries of a reference to the Tribunal of Arbitration at the Hague.

Before the signature of an Agreement for reference to the Tribunal it will be necessary that the claims in the first category should, as in the case of a direct settlement, be disposed of by an immediate payment. The other claims, including those for injury to property and the claims of the bondholders, would be submitted to the Tribunal on the conditions laid down in the Memorandum of the 23rd December.

There is another point which you should take an early opportunity of mentioning to Mr. Bowen. The establishment of a blockade created *ipso facto* a state of war between Great Britain and Venezuela, involving, it might possibly be contended, the abrogation of any Treaty existing between the two countries. In these circumstances, you should suggest an exchange of notes between your Excellency, as His Majesty's Representative, and Mr. Bowen, as Representative of the United States of Venezuela, to the effect that it is agreed that the Convention between Great Britain and Venezuela of the 29th October, 1834, which adopted and confirmed (*mutatis mutandis*) the Treaty of the 18th April, 1825, between Great Britain and the State of Colombia, shall be deemed to be renewed and confirmed, or, if the Venezuelan Government should prefer, provisionally renewed and confirmed pending the conclusion of a fresh Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

It may be convenient that I should recapitulate briefly the instructions contained in the preceding paragraphs.

1. If an arrangement is concluded for a direct settlement:

(a.) Claims arising out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and the outrages on their crews, and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects, must be at once satisfied.

(b.) Other claims for compensation, including the railway claims and those for injury to, or wrongful seizure of, property, must be met either by an immediate

payment to His Majesty's Government or by a guarantee adequate, in your opinion, to secure them. These claims can, if this be desired, be examined by a Mixed Commission before they are finally liquidated.

(c.) A fresh arrangement must be entered into by the Venezuelan Government in order to satisfy the claims of the bondholders, and this arrangement must include a definition of the sources from which the necessary payments are to be provided.

2. If recourse is had to the Tribunal at the Hague:

(a.) Immediate payment must be equally made of the claims in the first category.

(b.) The other claims, including those of the bondholders, will be referred to the Tribunal on the conditions laid down in the Memorandum of the 23rd December.

In either case, there must be an exchange of notes renewing the Convention of the 29th October, 1834.

On learning that the negotiations have resulted in an agreement fulfilling the above conditions, His Majesty's Government will at once give orders that the blockade of the Venezuelan ports by His Majesty's ships shall be raised. They will also be prepared to restore the vessels of the Venezuelan navy which have been seized, and, further, to release any other vessels captured under the Venezuelan flag on receipt of a guarantee from the Venezuelan Government that they will hold His Majesty's Government indemnified in respect of any proceedings which might be taken against them by the owners of such ships or of goods on board them.

All obstacles to the renewal of diplomatic intercourse will then have been removed, and His Majesty's Government will be happy to re-establish those friendly relations between Great Britain and Venezuela which previously existed, and which they sincerely desire to resume.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Memoranda on Venezuelan Loans of 1881 and 1896.

Loan of 1881.

IN 1834 Venezuela became responsible for $28\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the original Colombian Debt which was contracted in this country to carry on the war of independence against Spain. The amount of debt so assumed by Venezuela was 1,888,396*l.* principal and 906,430*l.* arrears of interest. Total, 2,794,826*l.*

Until 1841 no interest was paid on this debt. In that year a settlement was made by which the bondholders submitted to considerable sacrifices.

In 1847 default occurred. In 1859 an arrangement was made, when further concessions were demanded of the bondholders. Default again took place in the following year.

In 1862 the arrears of interest under the 1859 arrangement were funded and a new loan of 1,000,000*l.* was issued.

In 1864 a further Loan for 1,500,000*l.* was floated. In the same year payments on the 1859 and 1862 Loans were discontinued, and in 1867 default was made on the 1864 Loan. With the exception of a payment of 3*s.* in the £ on the coupons in 1876-8, the whole of the loans remained in default until 1881. In that year the loans of 1859, 1862, and 1864 were converted into a New Consolidated Debt, the bondholders once more having to submit to large reductions.

Interest on the Consolidated Debt was reduced to 3 per cent. until the unification of the External and Internal Debts could be effected, when it was to be increased to 4 per cent. Venezuela, however, raised various difficulties in the way of the unification being carried out, and has never paid more than 3 per cent.

In 1897 default again took place; since then a small amount has been remitted at irregular intervals sufficient to pay off the balance of the coupon due February 1898, and half the coupon due August 1898.

At the present time the amount of principal outstanding is 66,614,550 bolivares, or, say, 2,638,200*l.*, and the amount due for the service of the debt in arrear up to the 31st December, 1902, 56 monthly instalments of 177,933.58 bolivares, equivalent to 9,964,280 bolivares, or, say, 394,625*l.*

During the 69 years that have elapsed since Venezuela became an independent State it may be reckoned that the External Debt contracted in this country has been in default for nearly 40 years, and that during the same period the Republic has compelled the bondholders to accept five arrangements, under each of which they have had to submit to large sacrifices of their rightful claims.

Five per Cent. Loan of 1896.

This loan was for 50,000,000 bolivares, or, say, 1,980,198*l*. It was issued through the Disconto Gesellschaft of Berlin for the purpose of settling the railway guarantees in arrear and the redemption of the same guarantees in the future, the acquisition of some of the railways by the Government, and the completion of the Central Railway.

The amount of bonds issued to English Companies was 6,800,000 bolivares, or, say, 269,307*l*. These Companies had to submit to large reductions of their claims.

The service of the loan went into default in 1897; between that date and 1901 some small payments were made by the Venezuelan Government which were sufficient to discharge the June 1898 coupon, and 56 per cent. of the December 1898 coupon and sinking fund.

The amount of the principal outstanding is 48,807,440 bolivares, or, say, 1,932,967*l*., and the amount of the interest and sinking fund in arrear to the 31st December, 1902, is 12,660,097 bolivares, or, say, 501,390*l*.

The loan bears 5 per cent. interest and 1 per cent. accumulative sinking fund, and is secured on a sufficient amount of the customs revenues of the Republic to provide 3,000,000 bolivares annually. No other loan enjoying equal or better rights can be issued by Venezuela until the 1896 Loan has been entirely repaid.

No. 235.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 14, 1903.)

My Lord,

Trinidad, December 30, 1902.

IN my despatch of the 18th August last, I had the honour to give your Lordship a report on the subject of the "Harry Troop," which had formed the subject of my note to the Venezuelan Government of the 4th August, inclosed in my despatch of the 6th August last.

In the first-mentioned of these despatches I informed your Lordship of the steps which I had taken on behalf of the ship, in view of the report on the matter which I had received from His Majesty's Consul at Ciudad Bolivar.

I also inclosed a copy of a letter which I had received from the United States' Secretary of Legation subsequent to those representations, and remarked that this letter and Mr. Russell's later verbal statement to me about the ship would seem to indicate that the case was not as urgent as Mr. de Lemos supposed it to be.

I regret to say that it would appear from what Mr. de Lemos, who is here now, informs me, and from the copy of the despatch which I have the honour to inclose, that I placed too much faith on the complete accuracy of Mr. Russell's statements as to the improvement in the condition of the ship, &c., when he saw her, subsequent to Mr. de Lemos' above-mentioned report. These may probably be accounted for by the facts, which appear to be undoubted, that the American Minister was most anxious, for reasons best known to himself, to represent the conduct of the Venezuelan authorities in the most favourable possible light, and that he had inspired his subordinate in the same direction. To put it briefly, Mr. Russell did not dare to say a word outside the Legation contrary to General Castro's modes of proceeding. However that may be, and Mr. de Lemos' statement as to the attitude of the Captain of the "Marietta," and of Mr. Russell at Ciudad Bolivar, bears out those which I have received hence as to their action before going up the river, it seems undoubted that the "Harry Troop" was subjected to a series of grossest outrages, that substantial compensation—which Mr. de Lemos estimates at 7,000*l*.—is due on account of her forcible detention during six months, against all law, or even pretext (for that detention began on the 1st June, whereas the so-called blockade was not proclaimed till a month later), for the violent robbery by the Venezuelan Government authorities of part of her cargo and the loss of other portions

of it, for the death of one of the crew, and the sickness of all the rest of them, so that they were, as Mr. de Lemos describes, "human wrecks," when His Majesty's ship "Fantome" released her, and for the suffering and anxiety experienced by the Captain by the constant threats of death and sinking of his ship by the Venezuelan officer commanding the Government troops.

If it is possible to discriminate between the degrees of iniquity of the various cases of gross outrage and violence, and disrespect of the British flag, of which His Majesty's Government have to complain, this would appear to be one of the worst in intention and fact, as it certainly is, in gravity of loss and of prolonged suffering, for which exemplary punishment or, failing the possibility of this, exemplary compensation, is due by the Venezuelan authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Vice-Consul de Lemos to Mr. Haggard.

*Queen's Park Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad,
December 23, 1902.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the outrage committed by the Venezuelan Government authorities on the British schooner "Harry Troop"—Captain Thorbourne, of Liverpool, Nova Scotia—I beg leave to state:—

The vessel was illegally detained at an unhealthy place in the Orinoco by General Sarria and other Venezuelan Government officials from the 28th May (a month before the blockade had been declared) until November last. Part of her cargo was requisitioned by Government troops; her whole crew was ill with dysentery and fever, and one of the sailors died. The rest had to remain for weeks in hospital, and were still human wrecks when she did leave the Orinoco in November. During the fighting at San Felix several bullets struck the vessel, and the Venezuelan gun-boat "Bolivar" threatened to sink her in case she moved from her anchorage.

When the United States' ship "Marietta" visited the Orinoco in August, she could not render any assistance to the "Harry Troop," as at that time her whole crew were down with dysentery, and unfit to handle or move the vessel.

In September a new crew had to be sent to San Felix to navigate the "Harry Troop" to Bolivar. She was only able to leave the latter port in November on arrival of His Majesty's ship "Fantome," who gave her the necessary protection.

The material losses suffered by the "Harry Troop" must be considerable, while the mental anxiety and bodily suffering of the master and crew were severe. Not the slightest consideration of respect for her flag was shown by the Venezuelan Government authorities.

The Captain's sworn protest, &c., are in the archives of the Consulate at Bolivar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DE LEMOS,
His Majesty's Consul at Ciudad Bolivar.

No. 236.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 15, 1903.

I HAD some conversation yesterday with the German Ambassador in regard to the action which might be taken by the British and German Governments in consequence of the communication made to us on the 9th instant by the Government of the United States as to Venezuelan affairs.

His Excellency asked me whether His Majesty's Government had sent any reply to the communication in question, and I informed him that its receipt had been acknowledged, but that we had not thought it necessary to make any comments upon its contents. I had, however, had several conversations with the United States' Chargé d'Affaires, whom I had informed that, in the view of His Majesty's Government, it was desirable that our Representative at Washington should discuss the questions at issue with Mr. Bowen on his arrival at that place.

His Excellency explained to me that the German Government interpreted President Castro's reply of the 8th January to mean that he accepted unconditionally the reservations made in the German note of the 22nd December, 1902. The Venezuelan Government would, therefore, have to pay the claim mentioned in Reservation I, or provide a guarantee for its prompt payment, before entering into negotiations. The German Government considered that, as President Castro's answer contained no statement as to when or how this payment was to be made, or this guarantee given, further information was necessary on the point.

In particular, should there be no immediate payment, the security would have to be clearly explained, and it would have to be laid down, in the event of the guarantee being on the customs, by what method payment would be effected from the latter. The German Government thought that no further negotiations with Venezuela ought to be entered into until payment had been effected or sufficient security actually given, and they suggested that His Majesty's Government should reply in this sense.

I told His Excellency that it did not seem to me desirable that we should attempt at this stage to press President Castro further upon these points. As I understood the matter, Mr. Bowen had been entrusted with full powers by the Venezuelan Government. President Castro had, by accepting our conditions, admitted that it was essential that arrangements should be made for the settlement of the first rank claims, and a provision for such settlement should, I thought, be insisted upon by the Representatives of both Powers before they attempted to discuss other points with Mr. Bowen.

His Excellency called my attention to the fact that President Castro's letter apparently contemplated that Mr. Bowen should confer not only with the Representatives of Great Britain and Germany, but with those of all other nations having claims against Venezuela. His Excellency regarded this intimation with some alarm.

I said that it seemed to me that the blockading Powers stood on an entirely different footing from the rest, and that, in my view, it would be impossible for us to allow our Representatives to take part in a general discussion at which a number of other Powers would also be represented.

In my view the most convenient procedure would be that the British and German Representatives should negotiate separately with Mr. Bowen, but should keep one another fully informed as to their proceedings.

I subsequently communicated to his Excellency a copy of my despatch of the 13th, containing my instructions to Sir M. Herbert. His Excellency called upon me to-day and informed me that he had telegraphed the purport of these to the German Government, and that they entirely concurred with us as to the general tenour of the instructions. They also thought that it might be convenient that the British and German Representatives should negotiate separately with Mr. Bowen. It was, however, important that they should remain in touch with one another, and it was in particular desirable that any arrangement arrived at in regard to the bondholders should be concurred in by both Representatives. It was impossible to distinguish between the claims of the British and those of the German bondholders, and they had, in fact, arrived at an agreement for a common scheme, which we regarded as a reasonable compromise.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 237.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.**

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1903.

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir F. Lascelles recording my most recent conversations with the German Ambassador in regard to Venezuelan matters.

I desire to call your Excellency's special attention to the manner in which the Conferences with Mr. Bowen should be conducted. His Majesty's Government are not prepared to join in a general discussion with other Powers as to the questions at

* Substance telegraphed.

issue with Venezuela, and your Excellency must make it clear to Mr. Bowen that you are authorized to discuss with him only the British claims and the proposals which he may offer for their liquidation.

You will, however, communicate with your German and Italian colleagues as to the progress of your negotiations, and they will no doubt be instructed to keep you informed of their proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 238.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 21, 1903.

I RECEIVED a visit to-day from Mr. Bowen, who formally requested that the blockade should be raised before the commencement of negotiations.

No. 239.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 21, 1903.

WITH regard to your Excellency's telegram of to-day, you will see from your instructions that the fulfilment of certain conditions is required before His Majesty's Government will consent to the blockade being raised.

No. 240.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 24.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 23, 1903.

VENEZUELA. Mr. Bowen accepts, without reserve, the conditions laid down by His Majesty's Government.

For the payment of claims of the second category he proposes that 30 per cent. of the receipts of the Puerto Cabello and La Guayra custom-houses should be made over to the Powers every month, and that, should Venezuela fail to make this payment, the creditor nations shall be authorized to administer the said two custom-houses, putting in Belgian officials, with the consent of, and without opposition on the part of Venezuela, until the entire foreign debt is paid.

Mr. Bowen gives as his reason for selecting Puerto Cabello and La Guayra that they are the most important ports in the country, and that, owing to their geographical position, they are not liable, as the others are, to fall into the hands of the revolutionists at any moment, but will remain under the control of the Government.

Mr. Bowen informs me that 25 per cent. of the customs receipts are already devoted to the maintenance of the local State Government in which each port is situated, and 13 per cent. to the payment of existing Diplomatic claims. Adding to this the 30 per cent. now promised, only 32 per cent. would be left for the expenses of the Government and the payment of the army, and Venezuela could not possibly get on with less.

No. 241.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 24, 1903.

THE proposals made by Mr. Bowen, as reported in your telegram of to-day's date, are considered by His Majesty's Government to be satisfactory in principle, and would be useful as a basis for the discussion which is about to be commenced by your Excellency.

Without fuller explanations, however, as to the financial arrangements which are proposed, it is impossible to realize their effect, and as regards certain points we should require definite information.

These points are as follows:—

1. There are, so far as we are aware, no published statistics as regards the customs receipts of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello. What is their estimated annual value?

2. It is impossible to judge to what extent the proposals are adequate to satisfy the British claims without information as to the amount of the entire foreign debt.

Report its exact figure.

3. When the Venezuelan Government offer 30 per cent. of the customs of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello, do they mean the entire customs, or only 30 per cent. of the 40 per cent. of the total amount set apart by the Law of 1873 for debt and development of the country, which includes the 13 per cent. for the Diplomatic Debt, to which Mr. Bowen refers?

4. Is it proposed that the 30 per cent. should be paid by monthly instalments to the blockading Powers only, or are the whole of the creditor Powers also to share the benefit?

We shall be quite ready to accept the security proposed by Mr. Bowen if he can supply statements showing that he offers guarantees adequate in amount, and we shall be prepared to urge the German and Italian Governments to accept it.

No. 242.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 25.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 24, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, according to a statement made to me to-day by Mr. Bowen, the total customs receipts of all the Venezuelan ports, reckoned on the average of the last three years, should produce a yearly revenue of at least 30,000,000 bolivars; while the yearly yield of those of Puerto Cabello and La Guayra should amount to 18,000,000 bolivars.

No. 243.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 25.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 24, 1903.

VENEZUELA. Mr. Bowen has left with me a copy of his full powers, of which the following is a translation:—

"The Venezuelan Government grant full powers to Mr. Herbert W. Bowen to concert in Washington with the Diplomatic Representatives of the nations who have claims against Venezuela for the immediate settlement of those claims or for the arrangement of the preliminaries for the submission to arbitration of those which it may be impossible to settle immediately.

"Caracas, January 7, 1903.

"The Constitutional President,
" (Signed) CIPRIANO CASTRO.

"(Countersigned):

"The Minister of the Interior, charged
with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"R. LÓPEZ BARALT.

"Legalized by the American Chargé d'Affaires.

"W. RUSSELL."

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 25.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 25, 1903.

VENEZUELA. With reference to your telegram of yesterday, the following are Mr. Bowen's answers to your Lordship's questions:—

1. The value of the customs receipts of the two ports amounts to 18,000,000 bolivars yearly.

2. The total debt of Venezuela amounts to about 239,000,000 bolivars. This includes internal debt to the amount of 94,000,000 and exterior debt to the amount of 145,000,000.

3. Thirty per cent. of the entire customs receipts of the two ports is offered by the Venezuelan Government.

4. Each of the creditor Powers is to receive a share of the 30 per cent.; 29,000,000 bolivars approximately is the amount of the total claims of the other Powers who are not engaged in the blockade. As to our claims of the first line, Mr. Bowen agrees that they shall be satisfied. I am to receive from him for this purpose a promissory note for 5,500*l.*, payable within thirty days.

As soon as he is informed that the necessary orders have been issued for the raising of the blockade, which he trusts that your Lordship will now consent to do within twenty-four hours, he will sign the promissory note, together with a Protocol in which the other conditions which His Majesty's Government impose, all of which he has accepted, will be embodied.

No. 245.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 26, 1903.

ALTHOUGH we shall certainly not interpose vexatious difficulties, and earnestly desire to arrive at an early settlement, we must have further explanation with regard to the Venezuelan proposal contained in your telegram of the 25th instant. On the following points we should be glad of further information:—

It is understood that 213,000*l.* is the sum which 30 per cent. of the customs of the two ports would yield, and that this amount is intended to meet not only the claims of all the Powers for compensation, but the entire foreign debt of Venezuela, which amounts to 5,742,000*l.* The claims of the three Powers engaged in the blockade will reach nearly 900,000*l.*, and those of non-blockading Powers will reach some 1,148,514*l.* in amount.

If only 213,000*l.* a-year is available, it is obvious that many years will elapse before the whole of the above liabilities are extinguished. In these circumstances the interest of the creditors would be far from assured, considering the insecurity of affairs in Venezuela.

We consider that the claims of the Powers engaged in the blockade should not rank on the same line with other claims for compensation or by bondholders, and that some special arrangement should be made with regard to the former.

A portion of the revenue of the two ports might possibly be set apart under an arrangement by which the extinction of British, German, and Italian claims, within, say, five years, would be provided for. It is presumed that this could be arranged without the other creditor Powers, whose interests we have undertaken to respect, being injuriously affected.

We shall be prepared at once to move the German and Italian Governments to join with us in raising the blockade, in the event of a satisfactory arrangement on these lines being made.

No. 246.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 27, 1903.

VENEZUELA. With reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, it is not intended that the 30 per cent. of the receipts of the La Guayra and Puerto Cabello Customs shall meet the foreign debt, but they are to be exclusively devoted to the object of paying off the claims for compensation which all the Powers have put in.

It is impossible for Mr. Bowen, who stands committed to the other Powers, to give to the blockading Powers priority over them in respect of payment. He asserts that all the creditor nations would have been placed on an equal footing if the question of claims had been referred to the Hague Arbitration Tribunal.

No. 247.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 27, 1903.

VENEZUELA. The text of the Agreement which Mr. Bowen has signed respecting the payment of the 30 per cent. of the customs receipts of the two ports runs as follows:—

"I hereby agree that Venezuela will pay 30 per cent. of the total income of the ports of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello to the nations that have claims against her, and it is distinctly understood that the said 30 per cent. will be given exclusively to meet the claims mentioned in the recent ultimatums of the allied Powers and the unsettled claims of other nations that existed when the said ultimatums were presented. At the end of each month the amount of the total income of the two said ports will be duly announced to the creditor nations, and 30 per cent. of that amount will be paid to them, even if the whole amount should be lost or stolen, for Venezuela in that case would be bound to pay the said 30 per cent., even if she has to take it from other custom-houses or borrow the said 30 per cent. It is further understood that the said 30 per cent. is to be considered absolute and unchangeable, and not to be diminished by any other Agreements ever made or ever to be made affecting the customs receipts of the said two ports."

No. 248.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 27, 1903.

VENEZUELA. With reference to my telegram of the 25th instant, Mr. Bowen to-day told me that he would be in a position, as soon as we had signed a Protocol of Agreement, to hand me, in settlement of the claims of the first category put forward by His Majesty's Government, a draft for 5,500*l.* on New York, payable at once.

No. 249.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 27, 1903.

THE German Ambassador called upon me to-day, and we further discussed the position of the Venezuelan negotiations. I communicated to his Excellency the substance of my telegram to Sir M. Herbert of the 26th instant. It did not seem to the German Government that the assignment of 30 per cent. of the revenue of the two ports was a sufficient provision, if it was to be made use of, not only for the purpose of compensating the three blockading Powers, but also for that of satisfying the claims of the other Powers.

Count Metternich told me that he thought it essential that in any case a special arrangement should be made for the settlement of the first rank claims. As to these, Germany would expect to be paid in cash, if our first rank claims were to be met by cash payment. If we accepted a security they would accept a security also, which might take the shape of a first call upon the assigned customs revenues.

No. 250.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 28.)

(Telegraphic)

Washington, January 28, 1903.

VENEZUELA. Mr. Bowen expresses the earnest hope that the three Powers will not insist on the settlement of further questions of detail concerning the Mixed Commission and the supervision of the collection of customs, &c., which I referred to in the course of a conversation with him yesterday, until after the blockade has been raised, because the discussion of these points might result in further delay. He has promised that any reasonable suggestions which the three Representatives may make in connection with these questions will meet with no objection from him.

No. 251.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 28, 1903.

WITH reference to your telegrams of the 27th instant, His Majesty's Government cannot admit that pledges given by Mr. Bowen to the Powers which are not engaged in the blockade are binding on this country, and His Majesty's Government cannot accept a settlement which would force them to place their claims on the same footing with those of the non-blockading Powers.

It should not be difficult to make a separate arrangement with the blockading Powers by which annual instalments would be guaranteed to them, secured on a part of the customs revenues of the two ports sufficient to extinguish their claims. Those claims amount to about 900,000*l.*, and I would suggest that six years would be a reasonable period for payment. The Venezuelan Government would not be prevented by this plan from making, with the other Powers, simultaneous arrangements by which their claims for compensation would be satisfied.

You should discuss the matter with your German and Italian colleagues.

No. 252.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, January 29, 1903.

VENEZUELA. The Italian Ambassador, the German Chargé d'Affaires, and I called to-night on Mr. Bowen. I informed him that we were forced to reckon with public opinion in England, and that it might be necessary to fall back on the Tribunal of the Hague.

We were unable to obtain a satisfactory answer from Mr. Bowen, who was very obdurate.

He ultimately made a statement in reply in the following terms:—

"I object to paying first the claims of the allied Powers and the claims of the other nations afterwards, because—

"1. I think it is unjust, unfair, and illegal to tie the hands of the said other nations for the period of five or six years that it would take to pay the claims of the allied Powers;

"2. If I recognize that brute force alone can be respected in the collection of claims I should encourage the said other nations to use force also;

"3. If the allied Powers wanted preferential treatment they should have asked

for it in the beginning, and should not now propose it after I understood that all the conditions of the allied Powers had been stated.

"If, however, this demand for preferential treatment is raised simply as a point of honour, I am willing to agree that the entire 30 per cent. be paid to the allied Powers for the first month."

No. 253.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 29, 1903.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 28th instant, we are quite ready to consent that points of detail with regard to the Mixed Commission or other matters should be reserved for further discussion with Mr. Bowen, so far as practicable, as we should be most unwilling to cause delay at this stage by discussion of such points.

No. 254.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 29, 1903.

THE German Ambassador spoke to me again this morning about Venezuelan affairs.

He told me that the German Government agreed with us in holding that the Venezuelan Government should be required to make a special arrangement with the three blockading Powers, under which their claims to compensation would be satisfied apart from those of other Powers. The German Government considered that 30 per cent. of the revenues of the two ports should be set apart for this purpose alone.

I told his Excellency that it seemed to me worthy of consideration whether, if a part of the customs revenue was appropriated, not for the satisfaction of the claims of all the creditor Powers, but for that of the British, German, and Italian claims alone, we might not be content with rather less than the full 30 per cent. referred to. It seemed to us that the allocation of an annual sum sufficient to extinguish our claims in, say, six years, might be enough for our purpose, and we had instructed Sir M. Herbert to discuss the question with his German and Italian colleagues.

No. 255.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 30, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 28th instant, and to your Excellency's telegram of the 29th instant, I have to recall that on the 27th ultimo the United States' Chargé d'Affaires told me that the President was glad to be able to inform the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and Venezuela that they had all in principle agreed to the proposal to refer the questions pending to the Arbitration Tribunal at the Hague. Although unable himself to act as Arbitrator, the President was good enough to say that he would gladly hold himself at the disposition of the Powers concerned if he could be of any further service in arranging the preliminaries of such a reference.

The President of Venezuela subsequently commissioned Mr. Bowen to proceed to Washington with a view of coming to an arrangement either for an immediate settlement of the claims, or for concerting preliminaries for their submission to the arbitration of the Tribunal at the Hague.

There appears to be no doubt that the blockade could have been raised within a very few hours if Mr. Bowen had expressed a preference for the second of the above alternatives. The preliminary conditions on which Great Britain and Germany had insisted had been agreed to by President Castro, including those relative to the claims of the first line, *i.e.*, claims arising, for the most part, out of overt acts of spoliation and violence, of which, during recent years, British subjects and Germans have been the victims.

His Majesty's Government were ready to accept in full settlement of the British share

of these claims the sum of 5,500*l.* in cash, while Germany would accept a similar amount in cash, on condition of receiving priority as regards the sum of about 61,000*l.*, the balance of the German claims., Consequently, in addition to the conditions already agreed upon, only an immediate cash payment of 11,000*l.* and prior security for 61,000*l.* was required to make possible an immediate appeal to the Tribunal at the Hague and the termination at the same time of the blockade. Mr. Bowen, however, preferred to make an attempt to bring about a direct settlement. His Majesty's Government have no desire to minimize the weight of his reasons for this, but the result has been that a state of affairs has unfortunately been prolonged which it was the earnest wish of His Majesty's Government to terminate.

It seems that Mr. Bowen has not thought it possible to come to any arrangement which would not place on precisely the same footing all the Powers who have claims for compensation from Venezuela.

This is, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, quite at variance with international practice and with principles of equity, and, except at the instance of some competent Tribunal of Arbitration, they could not assent to it.

It must be remembered that neither the President of the United States in his communications with His Majesty's Government, nor any of the blockading Powers, nor, so far as I am aware, President Castro, have ever put forward a proposal of this nature.

The preferential treatment for which the blockading Powers have asked is not, it must be further remembered, one by which either the resources at the disposal of the Venezuelan Government for the payment of the external debt would be exhausted, or by which the so-called "Diplomatic debt," which amounts to only 5·2 per cent. of the total customs revenue of Venezuela, would be interfered with.

The other Powers will, without doubt, under the arrangements proposed by the blockading Powers, be in a much more favourable position than they ever were before, and that, too, without incurring any of the trouble or expense involved in the naval operations which have been undertaken.

His Majesty's Government are of opinion, in these circumstances, that the method by which hostilities may be most expeditiously terminated would be by the reference of the question in dispute to the Tribunal at the Hague, subject to the conditions already mentioned, unless, indeed, the President of the United States, in the interests of a prompt settlement, were to consent to decide the only point which seems to be an obstacle to the Powers immediately interested arriving at a complete agreement. It is unnecessary to say that His Majesty's Government, in the event of the President consenting to adopt this course, would, with feelings of the utmost gratification, accept his good offices. In the event of the President being unable to do so, His Majesty's Government hope that he will give his assistance, in accordance with the offer quoted above, with a view to arrange the preliminaries for a reference to the Tribunal at the Hague, and thus enable the Powers to put an end to the blockade at once.

I have communicated to the German and Italian Ambassadors here the substance of this telegram, and you may inform your German and Italian colleagues of the purport of these instructions.

No. 256.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 1, 1903.

IT is not the wish of His Majesty's Government to place any obstruction in the way of a reasonable arrangement between the Government of Venezuela and other Powers. At the same time, they consider it essential that priority should be given to the first rank of claims of the blockading Powers, and that provision should be made for the extinction, within a reasonable time, of the second rank of claims.

Subject to the fulfilment of these conditions, the terms which Venezuela may find herself able to offer to the other Powers are of no concern to His Majesty's Government, even if as advantageous as those obtained by the latter; but, except as the result of arbitration, they cannot assent to the doctrine that, in cases like the present, identic treatment should be accorded to belligerents and non-belligerents.

An arrangement by which the claims of the blockading Powers should be extinguished in six or seven years would, we believe, leave it possible for a similar settlement to be made with the other Powers. Your Excellency should make a further attempt, in concert with your German and Italian colleagues, to arrive at a settlement such as I have indicated before acting on the instructions contained in my telegram of the 30th ultimo.

No. 257.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 2, 1903.

HIS Majesty's Government are hoping shortly to learn from your Excellency whether a settlement on the lines indicated in my telegram of yesterday is possible.

If not, they are prepared to entertain proposals in conformity with the policy laid down in my telegram of the 30th January.

Procedure might be as follows:—

A Protocol would be drawn up for signature at Washington, embodying the conditions which Mr. Bowen has already accepted, including those for the settlement of the first-rank claims.

We should then reserve for adjudication by the President of the United States, or, failing that, by the Tribunal at the Hague, questions which arise out of the proposal for identic treatment of all the creditor Powers first made to us on the 25th ultimo.

No. 258.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, February 2, 1903.

THE substance of your telegram of the 1st instant was communicated by me, in the presence of my colleagues, to Mr. Bowen, who answered that he would, if possible, give me a reply to-morrow afternoon, after consulting the Representatives of the neutral Powers. He added, however, that he could not hold out any hope of the proposal being accepted.

No. 259.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 3, 1903.

IN the event of its proving impossible to arrive at a settlement of the nature described in my telegram of the 1st instant, the procedure which we contemplate is that you and your colleagues should ascertain whether the President of the United States would consent to arbitrate. Your proposals would then be made to Mr. Bowen in accordance with the President's reply.

No. 260.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, February 3, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have to state that late last night Mr. Bowen sent me a letter in which he stated that he could not accept our proposals, and suggested a reference to the Tribunal at the Hague of the question of priority.

I have asked Mr. Bowen if he had consulted the Representatives of the neutral Powers relative to our proposal of yesterday. In reply he stated that, as they held him to his promises of equal treatment, it would be useless to do so.

No. 261.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, February 4, 1903.

TO-DAY Mr. Bowen informed German Representative that he was willing to propose to the Powers that there should be no reference to the Hague, but that they should receive the total of 30 per cent. of the customs for three months instead.

No. 262.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 4, 1903.

WITH regard to the proposal contained in your telegram of to-day, I should be glad to learn, as early as possible, whether the sum which Mr. Bowen offers is meant to meet first-line claims or whether the intention is that separate provision should be made for them.

As you are aware, the conditions laid down by Great Britain and Germany were unreservedly accepted by President Castro in his note received by Mr. Hay on the 8th ultimo. One of those conditions was that, in the case of first-line claims, compensation would be paid at once by the Venezuelan Government.

No. 263.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 4, 1903.

A SETTLEMENT on the lines of my telegram of the 1st instant being now presumably unattainable, you should proceed, with regard to the points reserved for arbitration, in accordance with my telegram of the 3rd.

A separate telegram is being sent to you which contains the draft of a Protocol embodying the conditions which have already been accepted by Mr. Bowen.

No. 264.

Sir M. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

Washington, February 5, 1903.

WITH regard to the inquiry contained in your telegram of the 4th instant, I am informed by German Chargé d'Affaires that it is Mr. Bowen's intention that the first-rank claims should be met out of the total 30 per cent. receipts for the first three months.

No. 265.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Herbert.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 5, 1903.

MY telegram of the 4th instant.

Following is text of Protocol in the form proposed by His Majesty's Government:—

Whereas certain differences have arisen between Great Britain and the United States of Venezuela in connection with the claims of British subjects against the Venezuelan Government, the Undersigned, his Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Michael Henry Herbert, K.C.M.G., C.B., His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America, and Mr. Herbert W. Bowen, duly authorized thereto by the Government of Venezuela, have agreed as follows:—

Digitized with financial assistance from

ARTICLE I.

The Venezuelan Government declare that they recognize in principle the justice of the claims which have been preferred by His Majesty's Government on behalf of British subjects.

ARTICLE II.

The Venezuelan Government will satisfy at once, by payment in cash or its equivalent, the claims of British subjects, which amount to about 5,500*l.*, arising out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and the outrages on their crews, and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects.

ARTICLE III.

The British and Venezuelan Governments agree that the other British claims, including claims by British subjects other than those dealt with in Article VI hereof, and including those preferred by the Railway Companies, shall, unless otherwise satisfied, be referred to a Mixed Commission constituted in the manner defined in Article IV of this Protocol, and which shall examine the claims and decide upon the amount to be awarded in satisfaction of each claim.

The Venezuelan Government admit their liability in cases where the claim is for injury to, or wrongful seizure of, property, and consequently the questions which the Mixed Commission will have to decide in such cases will only be—

- (a.) Whether the injury took place, and whether the seizure was wrongful; and
- (b.) If so, what amount of compensation is due.

In other cases the claims shall be referred to the Mixed Commission without reserve.

ARTICLE IV.

The Mixed Commission shall consist of one British and one Venezuelan Member. In each case where they come to an agreement, their decision shall be final. In cases of disagreement, the claims shall be referred to the decision of an Umpire nominated by the President of the United States of America.

ARTICLE V.

The Venezuelan Government being willing to provide a sum sufficient for the payment within a reasonable time of the claims specified in Article III and similar claims preferred by other Governments, undertake to assign to *A B.* by the day of , 190 , for this purpose, and to alienate to no other purpose, 30 per cent. in monthly payments of the customs revenues of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello. In the case of failure to carry out this undertaking, Belgian officials shall be placed in charge of the customs of the two ports, and shall administer them until the liabilities of the Venezuelan Government, in respect of the above-mentioned claims, shall have been discharged.

Any question as to the distribution of the customs revenues so to be assigned, and as to the right of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy to a separate settlement of their claims, shall be determined, in default of arrangement, by the Tribunal at the Hague, by arbitration to which any other Power interested may make itself a Party.

ARTICLE VI.

The Venezuelan Government further undertake to enter into a fresh arrangement respecting the external debt of Venezuela, with a view to the satisfaction of the claims of the bondholders. This arrangement shall include a definition of the sources from which the necessary payments are to be provided.

ARTICLE VII.

The British and Venezuelan Governments agree that, inasmuch as it may be contended that the establishment of a blockade of Venezuelan ports by the British naval forces has, *ipso facto*, created a state of war between Great Britain and